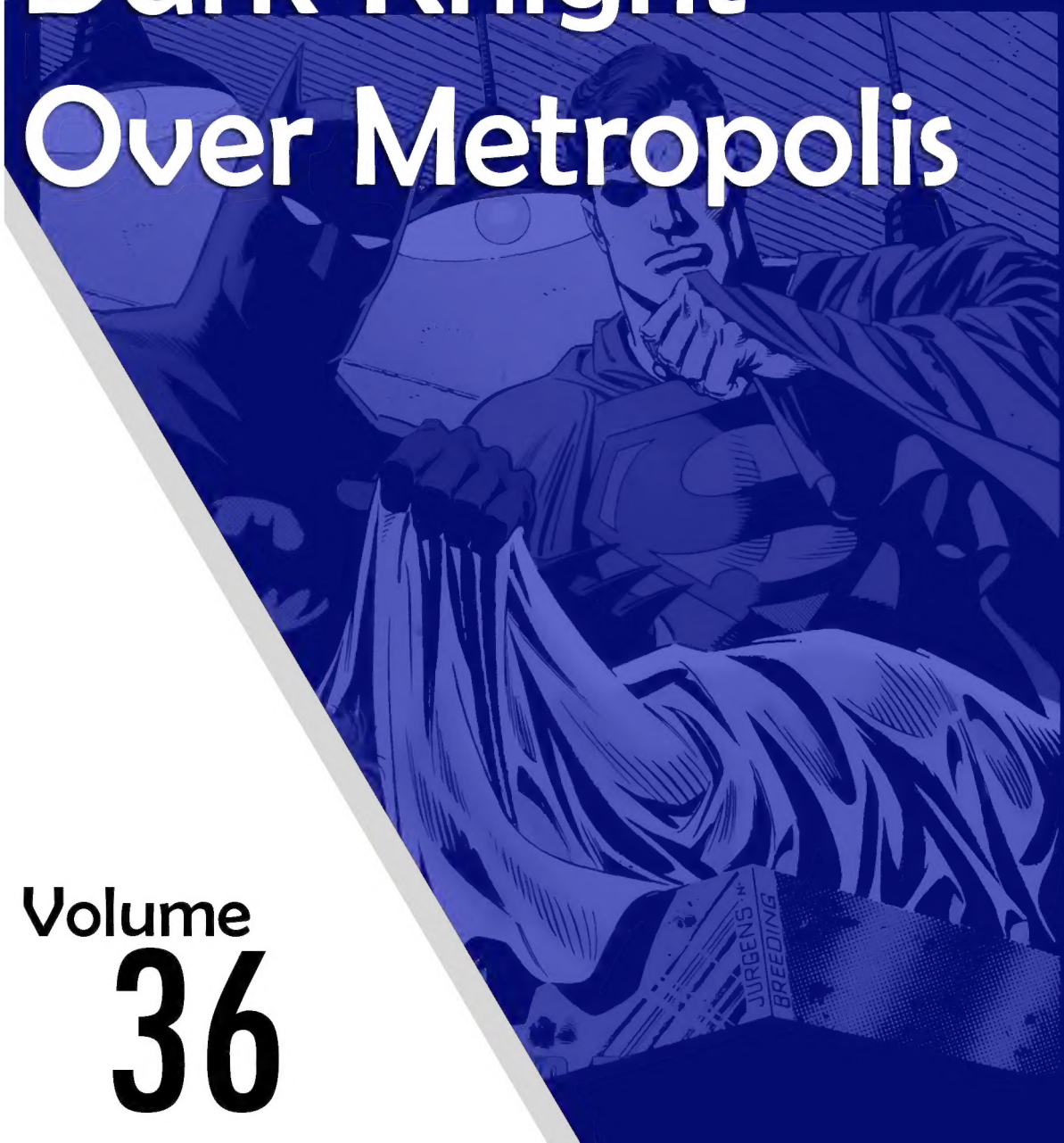
SUPERMAN

Post-CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS

Dark Knight Over Metropolis



Volume 36

SUPERMAN Post-CRISIS Dark Knight Over Metropois 36

PART ONE:

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: MANNHEIM
FROM: GILLESPIE
DATE: APRIL 23
RE: INTERGANG ACTIVITIES UPDATE

EYES ONLY

Attached are the files you requested concerning those parties currently posing a major threat to Intergang security.

Unfortunately, the situation is grim. To summarize recent events:

MORGAN EDGE --one of our organization's main co-conspirators--will shortly be placed on trial for racketeering. As former president of Galaxy Communications, Edge's trial will undoubtedly prove to be a media circus Intergang could have survived without.

CATHERINE "CAT" GRANT remains our gravest problem. Her romantic involvement with Edge--an elaborate cover projected to gain access to confidential Intergang information--resulted in that series of damaging articles in the Daily Planet by Clark Kent and Lois Lane. Grant's eyewitness testimony will be the cornerstone of the D.A.'s prosecution at the Edge trial.

JOSE DELGADO aka "GANGBUSTER" -- the self-styled protector of Suicide Slum possesses extreme athletic skills, and has been hired by Grant's ex-husband Joseph Morgan to act as her bodyguard for the duration of the Edge trial. His presence and abilities clearly complicate things.

Field agent BLINDSPOT has been dispatched to capture Grant and return her to headquarters for brainwashing to assure that her testimony will be in line with our needs.

On another note, and a personal one at that, I really think that given the current workload I'm handling that I deserve a raise. After all, I do put in the long hours of anyone here at the office and when you consider that I have to do typing for her I think it's only fair that I receive proper compensation for my effort. I would like to discuss this with you at your earliest convenience in order to expedite the raise, if

Gillespie

MURDER VICTIM FOUND IN NORTH BAKER LINE

BY LOIS LANE

An unidentified woman's body was found early this morning brutally bludgeoned to death in a back alley of the normally safe borough of Baker Line. As of press time, police still had not been able to establish the identity of the victim,nor were they able to disclose any motivation for the attack. Police Inspector Henderson has asked anyone with information to call the Metro Crime Hot Line at 555-1212. All calls will be kept confidential and

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DARK KNIGHT™ OVER METROPOLIS™

YOUR TWO FAVORITE HEROES

SUPERMAN® AND BATMAN®

Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

CREATED by BOB KANE

IN ONE ADVENTURE TOGETHER!

PRESENTED BY: **JERRY ORDWAY** ARTIST/WRITER · DENNIS JANKE *inker* · GLENN WHITMORE *colorist* · JOHN COSTANZA *letterer* · JON PETERSON *associate ed.* · MIKE CARLIN *editor*

PAGE 1-C THE DAILY PLANET
LSCATCAL
ALLSCATC
TCALLSCA
CALLSCAT
CAT CALLS
ATCALLSC
By Catherine Grant
Tonight's the big night for the
long-awaited re-issue of one of
Hollywood's most famous films.
Controversy surrounds Lexicon
Imageworks' use of computer
generated footage which "re-
creates" the actual actors
days gone by to alter—re
"update"—the ending of
great film. Like coloriza
this new Gone With The
features Clark Ga
mous "Frankly my
give
SY THEATRE
ONE
TH THE
WIND
50TH Anniversary showing
THE MOVIE JUST LET OUT. YEAH, YEAH. CAT GRANT AND THE KID ARE STILL WITH THAT BODYGUARD OF HERS, DELGADO.
I'M TAILING THEM. OVER AND OUT.
WELL, CAT, WAS THAT MOVIE WORTH RISKING YOUR LIFE OVER?
JOSE, NOT IN FRONT OF ADAM!
NOW SHOWING
...AND IT WAS SO COOL WHEN ATLANTA BURNED DOWN...

CA-AT! SEVENTH AVENUE IS *THAT* WAY!

THAT'S GREAT, BUT MY JAGUAR IS PARKED IN THE GARAGE ON *BESSELO* BOULEVARD, *THIS* WAY!

NO PAR

DAILY

WASTE

...THE *MUSHY* PARTS WERE *REALLY* GROSS, THOUGH...

THEY'RE IN THE ALLEY BEHIND THE THEATRE, HEADING WEST, OVER.

STAY WITH THEM, SLAM.

I'D FEEL BETTER TAKING 53RD STREET. THIS ALLEY'S KIND OF DARK.

I'M NOT AFRAID OF THE DARK, AND BESIDES, *THIS* IS A SHORTCUT.

MOM, DID ATLANTA *REALLY* BURN DOWN?

ATLANTA'S FINE, HONEY.

YOU'RE THE CHIEF WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION AT MORGAN EDGE'S TRIAL, LADY!

JOSE, I GAVE IN TO MY EX-HUSBAND BY LETTING HIM HIRE YOU...

I DIDN'T DO *THAT* SO I COULD REMAIN COOPED UP!

I *MEANT* DURING THE CIVIL WAR, MOM!

THIS WAS *STILL* DANGEROUS. THE WORD ON THE STREET IS THAT INTERGANG'S PUT A PRICE ON YOUR HEAD!

LET'S PLAY IT SAFE AND KEEP OUR EYES OPEN, OKAY?

LOOK OVER YOUR SHOULDER ALL YOU WANT, CHICO...

...REMEMBER *EVERYBODY'S* GOT A *BLIND-SPOT!*

JOSE!!

POW!

I WAS *EXPECTING* THIS. I'D BETTER--WAIT!

EEEEEEE

I'LL LET THAT DETECTIVE MAKE HIS MOVE...

...SINCE DELGADO'S *DOWN*, BUT NOT *OUT!*

POLICE OFFICER! HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!

YOU AND THE *BRAT* ARE COMING WITH *ME!*

GET *BEHIND* ME, BOY!

BETTER NOT *SHOOT*, COPPER! YOU MIGHT HIT THE PRINCESS!

EEEEEK! WHAT 'RE YOU DOING?

MR. GANGBUSTER! WAKE UP! WAKE UP! THAT MAN MADE MY MOM INVISIBLE!

UHHHN...

HUH?

WAP!

POPCORN

SON, STAND CLEAR, AND BE READY TO *RUN* LIKE HECK WHEN I GIVE THE WORD!

POPCORN

HOPE THIS POPCORN SHOWER WILL OUT-LINE THEM...

POPCORN

...AND **PRAY** THAT CAT'S THE SHORTER OF THE TWO!

JOSE!

OKAY, ADAM, ON YOUR MARK...

...GET SET...

THWACK

GO!

HEAD FOR THE GARAGE, YOU TWO!

DETECTIVE, ARE YOU--?

FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD, STAY WITH *THEM!* I'LL PUT THE CUFFS ON THIS "*BLIND-SPOT*"!

DAILY STAR

GLAD I HELD BACK-- DELGADO PULLED IT OFF ALONE.

LOOKS LIKE IT'S TIME FOR ME TO STEP IN NOW, THOUGH.

COME ON OUT OF THERE, NICE AND EASY.

NEED A HAND?

WHOA! TRYIN' TO SNEAK UP ON ME?

A *BIT* QUICK ON THE DRAW, OFFICER!

BLAM!

YOU?! I-- I'M SORRY.

YOU SHOULD *KNOW* BETTER 'N TO SURPRISE A GUY WITH A *GUN!*

I DON'T *USUALLY* FRET OVER BULLETS, UH...

NAME'S BRADLEY-- *SLAM* BRADLEY.

...UH... SLAM.

AS FOR YOU, FRIEND, YOUR CLOAKING DEVICE CAN'T *FOOL* MY X-RAY VISION.

BRICK WALLS *RARELY* HAVE *INTERNAL ORGANS.*

TELL YOUR FRIENDS...

...TELL ALL OF *INTERGANG.*

DON'T HURT ME, MAN...

I DON'T *KNOW* NOTHING!

LEAVE CAT GRANT ALONE!

TAKE IT *EASY,* SUPERMAN.

WHAT'S THIS? A GOOD-COP, BAD-COP ROUTINE?

MY POWER PACK!

RIIIP!

THIS IS NO ROUTINE.

YOU MAY CONSIDER YOURSELF *DISARMED* AND *FOREWARNED.*

CRUNCH!

EEEE-EEE-EEE-EEEE!

YOU *OKAY,* SUPES?

I--I'VE GOT TO GO...

PROFESSOR HAMILTON'S SIGNAL DEVICE!

THIS IS *BRADLEY.* BRING A POLICE WAGON. I'VE GOT A CUSTOMER!

INTERGANG NEVER SAID I'D HAVE TO GO ONE-ON-ONE WITH SUPERMAN! TALK ABOUT BEING UN-PREPARED!

Daily Star Page 2

WORLD BEAT

AP-Scotland

Loch Trevor was the site of un-
usual activities last week, when
residents of the nearby village
reported seeing bright lights in
the skies over the normally placi
waters of the secluded lake. Dr
Coe of Earth-Watch pointed the
finger at a NATO facility close
by, citing more military maneu-
vers. Town resident Mac Bourne
claimed the legendary Loch
Trevor Monster was actually cap-
tured, though no one could con-
firm these allegations.

EMIL, YOU'VE *GOT* TO TURN DOWN THE PITCH OF THAT HYPERSONIC BEEPER OF YOURS!

SUPERMAN, I'M SORRY, BUT I KNEW YOU'D WANT THE RESULTS OF MY TESTS ON THAT *ROCK SAMPLE* YOU BROUGHT FROM SCOTLAND!

GO ON, PROFESSOR.

THAT CHUNK FROM THE *EVIL FACTORY* ISN'T KRYPTONITE. IT'S OF EARTHLY ORIGIN.

I SAY, WOULD YOU CARE FOR A CUP OF COFFEE?

I'LL GET IT.

IT MAY BE *COLD*, BUT THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM FOR YOU, IS IT?

WELL, ANYWAY, I'VE BOOTED UP A SCHEMATIC.

THIS STUFF IS INERT NOW, BUT THERE IS STILL SOME RADIO-ACTIVITY PRESENT IN IT.

THE RADIATION HAS LOST *ALL* OF THE *PUNCH* IT PACKED WHEN IT FIRST HIT YOU.

THE "*TERROR*" WAS LOADED WITH IT WHEN THE EVIL FACTORY FIRST ATTACKED--IT NEARLY KILLED ME!

PROFESSOR, 96% OF EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED TO ME THESE PAST MONTHS HAS BEEN CAUSED BY *ONE SOLITARY THING*...

I'M WAY AHEAD OF YOU, SON. YOUR KRYPTONIAN ARTIFACT -- THE *ERADICATOR!*

SNAP!

YOU'VE COMPARED THE ROCK WITH YOUR READINGS ON THE ERADICATOR?

THEIR ENERGIES ARE NEARLY IDENTICAL.

I THINK THE PSEUDO-KRYPTONITE WAS BUT A BY-PRODUCT...

...OF THE ARTIFACT CAUSING ALL THOSE GLOBAL DISASTERS-- EARTHQUAKES, TIDAL WAVES...

...IN AN ATTEMPT TO *RE-CREATE* THE DESTRUCTION OF *KRYPTON*, ON EARTH!

IT NEARLY SUCCEEDED BEFORE I FINALLY DESTROYED IT!

WELL, I'M AFRAID NONE OF THIS CHANGES THE FACT THAT YOU'RE *STILL* VULNERABLE TO REAL KRYPTONITE!

THAT'S FOR SURE, PROFESSOR.

I WAS REMINDED A FEW WEEKS AGO WHEN THAT WOMAN CONFRONTED ME WITH LUTHOR'S KRYPTONITE RING.*

SHE *KNEW* MY SECRET, AND HAD THE CHANCE TO *KILL* ME, BUT SHE DIDN'T. TOOK ME DAYS TO RECOVER FROM THAT!

DID LUTHOR SEND HER? IF NOT, THEN *WHO* DID? AND WHERE IN BLAZES IS SHE *NOW*?

*Depicted in ACTION #653

METROPOLIS EAGLE APRIL

MURDER VICTIM FOUND IN ALLEY

The body of a woman was found brutally murdered in an alleyway behind the Schwartz Arcade building in North Bakerline. The victim —estimated to be in her mid-to late thirties—was beaten beyond recognition and no identification was found on the body. Police report that they are at a loss to locate any eyewitnesses but are asking anyone who may have seen anything w[illegible]

WELL, SHE WAS BLUDGEONED WITH WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN A TIRE IRON, OR STEEL PIPE, INSPECTOR HENDERSON.

CORONERS OFFICE

MORGUE ROOM 708 HOURS 8AM-5PM

I COULD'VE TOLD YOU *THAT*, DOC. WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO MATCH HER PHYSICALLY WITH ANY *MISSING PERSONS*.

SHE'D BEEN LYING IN THAT GANGWAY FOR TWO WEEKS?

UH-HUH.

THERE *IS* SOMETHING. THIS *GLOVE* WE FOUND ON HER...

SCIENCE BOYS FOUND TRACES OF RADIOACTIVITY ON IT!

HOW'S *THAT*?

OH, SHE MAY HAVE WORKED IN THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY, OR PERHAPS A HOSPITAL ONCOLOGY LAB.

WHATEVER THE STORY, SHE HAD HER HANDS ON SOMETHING HOT THAT WE CAN'T IDENTIFY!

WELL, IT'S *SOMETHING* TO GO ON.

YOU KNOW, TIME WAS, THIS KIND OF VICIOUS MURDER ONLY HAPPENED IN SUICIDE SLUM...

DAMMIT! I SAW THIS KIND OF THING TOLERATED *THERE*, AND I WON'T STAND FOR IT ANYMORE!!

THIS *ISN'T* GOTHAM CITY!

CRASH!

Meanwhile, in ci...
continues to be the ongoing spe...

VIOLENT CRIME ON THE RISE

The number of assault cases reported to the authorities was on the rise in the first quarter, compared to last year's figures. Violent crime was also up in Gotham City, a trend reflected across the country as well. Police Commissioner Gordon blamed the rise on drug related cases and stressed the need for greater education.

Continued on Page 4

HAND OVER THE BOX, GEEZER!

THIS IS *MY* TURF, AND YOU GOT TO *PAY* IF YOU WANT TO *STAY!*

;COUGH; MY TREASURES--MY *LIFE!* ;COUGH;

LOOK AROUND YOU--*THEY* KNOW THE *PRICE!*

GIMME!

NOOoo ;COUGH; ;COUGH;!

DON'T TRY'N STAND UP TO ME--YOU COULDN'T FIGHT YOUR WAY OUT OF A PAPER SACK!

THIS ALLEY IS *MINE!*

WRONG. THE *NIGHT* BELONGS TO *ME!*

WHA'?

;WEEZE;

NO NO *NO!* NOT YOU!

OPTIMO CIGARS

FWIP!

YOU'VE BEEN PREYING ON THE WEAK FOR TOO LONG...

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, I'M TAKING THIS ALLEY BACK!

LET'S RETURN THE "RENT," OKAY?

DON'T DO THIS TO ME-- CAN'T LEAVE ME TIED UP...

THOSE BUMS'LL KILL ME!

THIS ONE WON'T.

YOUR VICTIM DOESN'T APPEAR TOO HEALTHY.

OPTIMO CIGARS

DEAD. SIGNS OF ACUTE ALCOHOLISM.

JAUNDICED LOOK TO THE SKIN.

CIGAR

HE DIED FOR THIS CIGAR BOX!

PROTECTING HIS LIFE'S BELONGINGS, NO DOUBT.

5¢

OPTIMO CIGARS

WELL, HE'S BEEN TO METROPOLIS RECENTLY...

WHERE HE APPARENTLY DID SOME *GEM SHOPPING!*

HEY! I'M BEING RIPPED OFF BY *BATMAN?*

WHAT'S THIS WORLD COMING TO?

GREYHOUND BUS BRAKE

KIT-KAT CLUB

IT GLOWS AS IF IT'S *LIT* FROM WITHIN!

RADIOACTIVE? I'D BETTER GIVE IT A CLOSER LOOK.

THIS COMPARTMENTS SHIELDED FOR HOLDING EXPLOSIVE SHELLS...

AWWW MAN-- LEMME GO! I WON'T *RAT* ON YOU!

UNTIE ME! I GOT *ENEMIES* HERE!

I'LL NOTIFY THE POLICE OF YOUR "*DANGER*."

THERE'S MORE TO THIS RING THAN MEETS THE EYE, THAT'S FOR SURE...

I'LL HAVE TO ANALYZE IT AT MY LAB IN THE BATCAVE...

"SOMETHING AS UNIQUE AS THIS MUST HAVE A HISTORY BEHIND IT."

...hen re...
...an understandab...

ZENITH AWARDS BANQUET TOMORROW

Lexcorp C.E.O. Lex Luthor

by John Mahoney

The seventh annual Zenith Awards for Integrity in Journalism are hosted again this year by WLEX owner and president Lex Luthor at his private estate just outside of Metropolis. Long time philanthropist Luthor takes pleasure and pride in rewarding "the keepers of the truth," as he calls them.

JENNIFER, I DO NOT HAVE THE *TIME* TO DEAL WITH POLICE INQUIRIES! I *PAY* PEOPLE TO DO THAT FOR ME!

I'M MORE CONCERNED WITH THESE SURVEILLANCE REPORTS YOU JUST HANDED TO ME.

SPECIFICALLY, THERE IS A TIME *LAPSE* IN HERE THAT IS STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR.

FIND OUT *WHY* THE POLICE NEED INFORMATION ON EMPLOYEES IN OUR NUCLEAR DIVISIONS, AND PASS IT ON TO *LEGAL!*

AND HAVE MY SECURITY CHIEF MEET ME IN SECTOR TEN IN ONE HALF HOUR!

YES, MR. LUTHOR.

BRAINIAC SEVERELY COMPROMISED OPERATIONS BY MIND-CONTROLLING MY KEY PEOPLE!*

SECURITY IS IN A SHAMBLES, AND NOW *THIS* BLANK SHOWS UP!

*Action #'s 647-649

IT HAPPENED OVER A MONTH AGO, BUT WAS JUST NOTICED!

THIS *IS* WORRISOME. MY PERSONAL VAULT LIES IN THAT SECTOR.

MY MOST CHERISHED POSSESSIONS ARE STORED THERE -- INCLUDING THE *ONE* THING THAT NEARLY KILLED ME.

THE KRYPTONITE RING, WHICH GAVE ME MY EDGE OVER SUPERMAN...

...HAS LAIN UNTOUCHED SINCE I LOST MY HAND TO ITS RADIATION.

I HAVEN'T VENTURED TO EVEN LOOK AT IT SINCE THEN!

THE MONITOR INDICATES THAT NOTHING IS MISSING...

WAIT! THE INVENTORY DATE SHOWN IS FROM BEFORE THE RING WAS EVEN IN HERE!

INVENTORY INTACT

IT'S GONE! STOLEN!

WHO COULD'VE DONE THIS WITHOUT TRIPPING THE ALARMS?

BRAINIAC? SUPERMAN? DAMN!

JENNIFER! I WANT DAMAGE CONTROL IN MY OFFICE NOW!

...AND PUT A HALT TO ALL OUTSIDE OPERATIONS! THERE ARE NEW PRIORITIES HERE!

SHOULD I CANCEL THE ZENITH AWARDS BANQUET, SIR?

"NO, JENNIFER. THAT WOULD BE A CORPORATE EMBARRASSMENT. THE SHOW MUST GO ON."

TRIAL OF MEDIA MOGUL SET TO START

With jury selection finally completed, Galaxy Communications President Morgan Edge's trial on racketeering charges is finally set to begin this week. Attorney Morton Caputo has stated that his client, Edge, was a victim of alien mind control—an unusual defense with recent precedents being set by Lexcorp executives concerning dealings with the alien invader Brainiac.

Presiding over the case is (continued on page 23)

WELL, MORTY, WHAT'S THE *VERDICT?*

HEH, HEH, THAT'S FOR A *JURY* TO DECIDE, MORGAN.

SERIOUSLY, I DON'T THINK WE HAVE TO WORRY MUCH OVER CLARK KENT'S *OR* LOIS LANE'S TESTIMONY.

NOW, CATHERINE GRANT-- SHE SCARES THE HECK OUT OF ME!

I'D LIKE NOTHING BETTER THAN TO SEE YOU TEAR THAT *WITCH* APART ON THE WITNESS STAND. *HOWEVER...*

...I NEED YOU TO BE VERY CAREFUL AS TO HOW YOU GO ABOUT IT. HER EX-HUSBAND IS *WELL CONNECTED,* IF YOU CATCH MY DRIFT.

ARE YOU TELLING ME I *CAN'T* GO AFTER HER?

YOU MIGHT AS WELL PLEAD *GUILTY* RIGHT NOW, IF I'M NOT ALLOWED TO DRAG HER THROUGH THE *MUD* UP THERE!

I'M ONLY SAYING *TAKE IT EASY.*

IF THAT'S *IT,* I'VE GOT SOME BUSINESS WITH ONE OF MY PRODUCERS CONCERNING TOMORROW NIGHT'S AWARDS BANQUET...

I MUST ADVISE AGAINST *ATTENDING!*

WHY?

YOU'RE GOING ON TRIAL IN *TWO* DAYS, MORGAN!

YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE FOR ME TO GET YOU OUT OF THIS JAM...

"TRUST ME."

DAMMIT, GILLESPIE, YOU RECOMMENDED THAT FREELANCER BLIND-SPOT, AND NOW HE'S IN POLICE CUSTODY!

HE WASN'T EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH SUPERMAN, MR. MANNHEIM

AND ARE THESE OTHER TWO ANY BETTER PREPARED?

I BELIEVE SO, YES

OKAY, THEN. AT LEAST THESE TWO ARE MORE EXPERIENCED!

HELLO, CHILLER -- SHOCKWAVE. YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT IS BEING ASKED OF YOU?

YES.

UH, YEAH.

CATHERINE GRANT IS TO BE TAKEN ALIVE.

WE WON'T FAIL.

THAT'S WHAT BLINDSPOT SAID.

GILLESPIE, WE'LL NEED A DISTRACTION.

HOW ABOUT AN ATTACK ON THAT JOURNALISTS' BANQUET?

I GUARANTEE THAT IF YOU PUT KENT AND LANE IN JEOPARDY, SUPERMAN WILL SHOW UP TO SAVE THEM!

DO IT.

GOTHAM CITY MEDICAL EXAMINER

Autopsy report filed by: Dr Bryon Johns
Date: 4-31-90 **Supervisor:** R. Burns
Name of Decedent: Beaumont, Hubert K.
Age: 49 **Ht:** 5'11" **Wt:** 138 lbs **Sex:** M
Race: Caucasian **Place of Birth:** Rye, NY
Cause of Death: Cardiac arrest
Comments: Subject suffered from advanced heart disease, along with symptoms endemic to acute alcoholism. Of note was the presence of an unidentified radiation in his bloodstream. Level of radiation at 75 rems per hour were measured. Conclusion: the radiation aggravated his already disease-ravaged system, causing death.

HMMM.

THIS REPORT I'VE BOOTED UP FROM THE POLICE FILES ON THAT VAGRANT FROM THE ALLEY CONFIRMS MY SUSPICIONS.

THE RADIATION FROM THE RING *IS* HARMFUL...

THOUGH AT *THESE* LEVELS, THIS UNKNOWN RADIATION WOULD ONLY BE *FATAL* WITH LONG-TERM EXPOSURE.

I'D GUESS THAT *HE* ONLY HAD IT FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS.

THERE WERE METROPOLIS SUBWAY TOKENS, AS WELL AS A WEEK-OLD ONE-WAY BUS TICKET TO GOTHAM AMONG HIS POSSESSIONS.

THE VAGRANT HAD NO CRIMINAL RECORD. IS IT POSSIBLE HE SIMPLY *FOUND* THE RING ON A METROPOLIS STREET?

THE *STONE* ISN'T MAN-MADE, BUT IT *HAS* BEEN EXPERTLY CUT, POLISHED AND MOUNTED.

A BEAUTIFUL PIECE OF WORK, BUT WHY MAKE A PIECE OF JEWELRY OUT OF A RADIOACTIVE GEMSTONE?

MASTER BRUCE?

ALFRED.

WASN'T THERE SOME SORT OF SOCIAL FUNCTION TAKING PLACE IN METROPOLIS THAT I WAS INVITED TO?

BRUCE WAYNE RECEIVES *MANY* SUCH INVITATIONS, SIR.

LET ME THINK-- METROPOLIS...

YES, *YES*.

I *RECALL* THERE *WAS* SOMETHING--THE ZENITH AWARDS, OR SOMESUCH THING. FOR EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM.

I BELIEVE YOU TURNED IT DOWN ON THE BASIS OF ITS SPONSORSHIP...

...LEX LUTHOR.

YES, I DID AT THAT.

IS IT TOO LATE TO *RSVP*?

IT IS *NEVER* TOO LATE FOR A MAN OF YOUR STANDING, MASTER BRUCE.

GOOD.

PACK *OUR* BAGS, AND HAVE MY PRIVATE JET FUELED AND READY FOR TAKEOFF IN AN HOUR.

WE'RE GOING TO METROPOLIS? BUSINESS OR PLEASURE?

A LITTLE OF *BOTH*, OLD FRIEND.

FIRST, THOUGH, I'LL SEE IF COMMISSIONER GORDON CAN GIVE ME A LEAD ON ANY RADIATION CASES IN METROPOLIS.

AND AS LONG AS I'M GOING TO BE IN *HIS* CITY...

"I'D BETTER GET IN TOUCH WITH SUPERMAN."

SUNSPOT ACTIVITY PEAKS CLIMATE, BROADCASTING AFFECTED

Washington—Sunspot activity over recent weeks has returned to normal, acceptable levels. After some of the most intense solar disturbances ever recorded, government researchers were relieved that last month's phenomenon had subsided. Aurora Australis, or southern lights, in Antarcti-
-ere

TALKING WITH THE PROFESSOR ABOUT THE ERADICATOR REMINDED ME THAT I INTENDED TO CHECK IN ON MY *FORTRESS.*

GOOD. EVERYTHING'S UNCHANGED SINCE I *DESTROYED* THE ARTIFACT* AND TOOK MA AND PA BACK TO *SMALLVILLE.*

MY KRYPTONITE'S STILL SAFELY STORED IN ITS LEAD CASE IN THE WALL.

THE ARTIFACT *BUILT* THIS PLACE AS A *MONUMENT* TO MY PLANET OF BIRTH, KRYPTON.

THAT *STATUE* HONORED THE MEMORY OF MY BLOOD-PARENTS JOR-EL AND LARA...

* *IN ACTION #652*

THIS *SHOULD* HAVE A PLACE IN HERE.

MOTHER-- FATHER, YOU WILL *NOT* BE FORGOTTEN.

YOU'LL ALWAYS BE HERE TO REMIND ME OF MY *DUAL* HERITAGE...

...JUST AS I HAVE MA AND PA IN SMALLVILLE TO REMIND ME OF MY HUMANITY.

I'LL BE BACK...

...BUT FOR *NOW*, I'VE GOT TO MEET A VERY SPECIAL SOMEONE IN METROPOLIS.

LOIS AND I HAVE A DINNER DATE, AND I REALLY THINK WE HAVE A CHANCE TOGETHER THIS TIME...

SHE'S RESPONDING TO ME AS *CLARK*, AND NOT *SUPERMAN*.

"I DON'T WANT TO BLOW IT!

HERE'S SEVEN. KEEP THE CHANGE!

the Clinton Apartments

394 CLINTON

I'M LOIS LANE. MR. KENT IS *EXPECTING* ME.

I RECOGNIZE YOU, MISS LANE.

BZZZZZT

JUST IN TIME.

GOSH, *LOIS*, YOU LOOK FABULOUS!

YOU'RE DRESSED A WEE BIT *CASUAL*, AREN'T YOU, CLARK?

AND YOU'RE A WEE BIT *EARLY*.

I *JUST* FINISHED IRONING MY SHIRT!

I DON'T IRON ANYMORE. I HANG MY WRINKLED CLOTHES IN THE BATHROOM WHILE I SHOWER.

THE HOT STEAM TAKES THE WRINKLES RIGHT OUT!

IT'D TAKE A *LOT* OF STEAM TO FIX MY SHIRTS...

MAYBE I'LL *HELP*, IF YOU ASK NICE.

MY MOTHER USED TO TELL ME ABOUT GIRLS LIKE YOU.

WHAT'D SHE SAY?

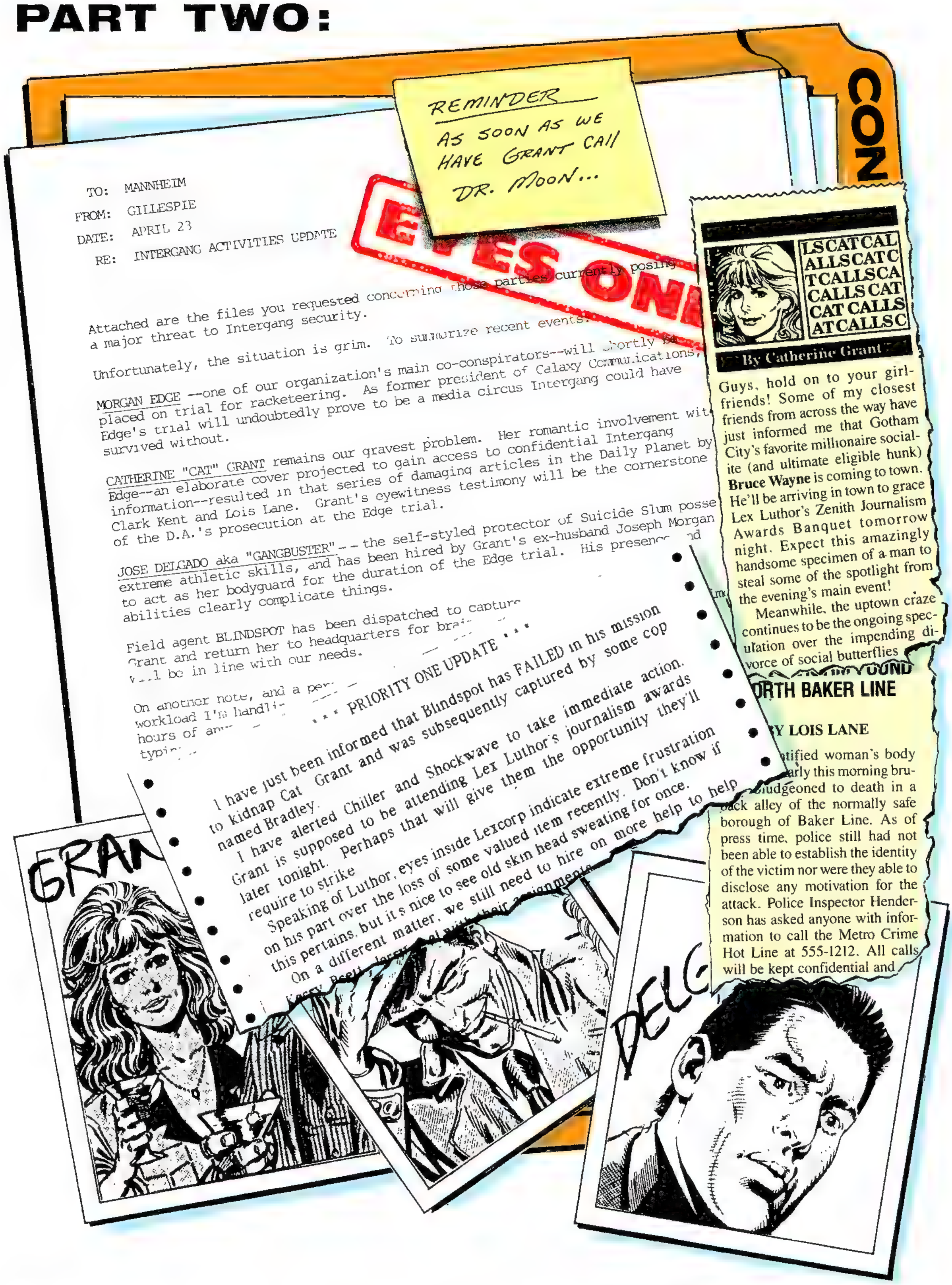
SHE TOLD ME NOT TO LET THEM GET AWAY.

394 CLINT

GOOD ADVICE.

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN No. 467 AND ACTION COMICS No. 654

PART TWO:


CON
REMINDER
AS SOON AS WE HAVE GRANT CALL DR. MOON...
TO: MANNHEIM
FROM: GILLESPIE
DATE: APRIL 23
RE: INTERGANG ACTIVITIES UPDATE
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CATHERINE "CAT" GRANT remains our gravest problem. Her romantic involvement with Edge--an elaborate cover projected to gain access to confidential Intergang information--resulted in that series of damaging articles in the Daily Planet by Clark Kent and Lois Lane. Grant's eyewitness testimony will be the cornerstone of the D.A.'s prosecution at the Edge trial.
JOSE DELGADO aka "GANGBUSTER" -- the self-styled protector of Suicide Slum posse extreme athletic skills, and has been hired by Grant's ex-husband Joseph Morgan to act as her bodyguard for the duration of the Edge trial. His presence and abilities clearly complicate things.
Field agent BLINDSPOT has been dispatched to capture Grant and return her to headquarters for brainwashing to be in line with our needs.
On another note, and a personal matter, I'm handling an unusual workload I'm handling hours of anti-Intergang typing
*** PRIORITY ONE UPDATE ***
I have just been informed that Blindspot has FAILED in his mission to kidnap Cat Grant and was subsequently captured by some cop named Bradley.
I have alerted Chiller and Shockwave to take immediate action. Grant is supposed to be attending Lex Luthor's journalism awards later tonight. Perhaps that will give them the opportunity they'll require to strike
Speaking of Luthor, eyes inside Lexcorp indicate extreme frustration on his part over the loss of some valued item recently. Don't know if this pertains, but it's nice to see old skin head sweating for once.
On a different matter, we still need to hire on more help to help
LSCATCAL
ALLSCATC
TCALLSCA
CALLSCAT
CAT CALLS
ATCALLSC
By Catherine Grant
Guys, hold on to your girlfriends! Some of my closest friends from across the way have just informed me that Gotham City's favorite millionaire socialite (and ultimate eligible hunk) **Bruce Wayne** is coming to town. He'll be arriving in town to grace Lex Luthor's Zenith Journalism Awards Banquet tomorrow night. Expect this amazingly handsome specimen of a man to steal some of the spotlight from the evening's main event!
Meanwhile, the uptown craze continues to be the ongoing speculation over the impending divorce of social butterflies
ORTH BAKER LINE
Y LOIS LANE
tified woman's body arly this morning brudgeoned to death in a back alley of the normally safe borough of Baker Line. As of press time, police still had not been able to establish the identity of the victim nor were they able to disclose any motivation for the attack. Police Inspector Henderson has asked anyone with information to call the Metro Crime Hot Line at 555-1212. All calls will be kept confidential and
GRAN
DELG

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G-5628

BATMAN IS IN METROPOLIS--

--AND THAT MEANS TROUBLE CAN'T BE FAR BEHIND.

THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN SOMETHING ABOUT BATMAN THAT TROUBLES ME.

HE WORKS OUTSIDE THE LAW--WITH METHODS THAT ARE USUALLY QUESTIONABLE AT BEST.

DAILY PLAN

THE FACT THAT HE ACTUALLY DEDUCED I'M CLARK KENT DOESN'T HELP MATTERS ANY, EITHER.

"WHEN I GOT HOME FROM MY DATE WITH LOIS AND FOUND THE PATIO DOOR OPEN--

"--I WAS AFRAID I'D BEEN HIT BY A SECOND STORY MAN.

"THE NOTE ON MY TABLE PROVED IT WAS A LOT WORSE THAN THAT."

A LONER LIKE BATMAN WOULDN'T BE LOOKING FOR ME--

We have to talk!

SO, WHERE IS HE?

AND WHAT IS HE DOING IN MY CITY?

--UNLESS IT WAS SERIOUS.

* * INTERSTATE DISPATCH * *

From: Sgt. Stone, Homicide - Metropolis P. D.
555-2850

To: Tri-State Precinct Commanders

Unidentified victim of recent homicide in Metropolis shows signs of slight radiation poisoning.

TROPOLIS PRECINCT NO7

Run-through of employees of local nuclear and experimental radiology facilities in and around Metropolis has turned up negative I. D.

MORGUE

Desperate to supplement information.

Any names of missing persons currently or recently employed in radiology field in Troy, New York, Gotham or any other area within tri-state vicinity might supply lead.

Appreciate the hand, fellas.

FREEZE, SUCKER!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT KINDA GHOUL YOU ARE, BATMAN--

-- BUT YOU SURE AS HECK DON'T OWN METROPOLIS COPS LIKE YOU DO GOTHAM'S!

REALLY?

TELL ME, OFFICER...

WHEN I TURN AND WALK OUT OF HERE ARE YOU GOING TO SHOOT ME? DRILL ME IN THE BACK?

AHH... NO...

BUT YOU GOTTA RESPECT THE *LAW* HERE! YOU GOTTA ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS!

THE LAW TAKES TIME, OFFICER--

HEY!

--AND TIME IS ONE THING I DON'T HAVE!

NOW YOU HOLD IT RIGHT THERE OR I'M GONNA HIT THE ALARM!

GO AHEAD.

WWOOO

WOOOOOO

POLICE ALARMS?!

PROBABLY DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE TO THINK THIS WAY--

--BUT MY GUT TELLS ME THAT *BATMAN'S* INVOLVED!

THAT SHADOW MOVING ACROSS THAT ROOF DOWN THERE!

BATMAN!

ABOUT TIME YOU SHOWED UP! I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU ALL NIGHT LONG!

I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR ME--

--BUT IF WE KEEP GETTING TOGETHER LIKE THIS, PEOPLE ARE GONNA THINK YOU'RE MY SIDEKICK!

GANGBUSTER?!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!

THAT'S CAT GRANT'S PLACE ACROSS THE STREET, AND IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T HEARD--

--SHE'S AN *INTERGANG* TARGET!

AND YOU'RE HERE PLAYING WATCHDOG, EH?

GOOD GLAD TO HEAR IT.

REALLY? I ASSUMED YOU'D THINK I WASN'T UP TO THE TASK!

YOU PROBABLY THINK I DOUBT YOUR ABILITIES BECAUSE I'VE HELPED YOU OUT OF A COUPLE OF TOUGH JAMS.

WAY I SEE IT, YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF GUTS.

HOW SO?

YOU'RE JUST A REGULAR GUY.

NO POWERS, NO SUPER-STRENGTH--

--NO INVULNERABILITY.

I KNOW YOU MUST HAVE GOOD REASONS FOR DOING WHAT YOU DO...

...BUT I'D THINK TWICE ABOUT CHARGING INTO A NASTY SITUATION IF I STOOD A GOOD CHANCE OF COMING OUT OF IT WITH BATTLE SCARS.

I HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT IT... A MILLION TIMES.

I'VE BEEN PARALYZED, SHOT, BURIED ALIVE--

--BUT I KEEP COMING BACK FOR MORE!

I MAY NOT BE THE SMARTEST GUY... BUT I CAN'T FIGURE ANY OTHER WAY TO MAKE AS BIG A DIFFERENCE.

IF HE COULDN'T STAND THE HEAT, SUPERMAN--

--HE'D HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF THE KITCHEN BY NOW.

I'VE BEEN WAITING.

OH, MAN!

WE MUST TALK, SUPERMAN.

GO AHEAD, I'M LISTENING.

ALONE.

FOLLOW ME.

IS THAT GUY ALWAYS THIS INTENSE?

ACTUALLY, I'D SAY HE SEEMS TO BE IN A PRETTY CHEERY MOOD TONIGHT.

WONDER HOW MANY TIMES BATMAN'S BEEN SHOT..., OR PARALYZED..., OR BURIED ALIVE...

DOESN'T STOP HIM EITHER!

IT ACTUALLY SOUNDED LIKE BATMAN UNDERSTOOD WHY THERE IS A GANGBUSTER AT ALL...

...NOW I JUST HAVE TO CONVINCE MYSELF AGAIN THAT A GANGBUSTER IS STILL NEEDED IN METROPOLIS.

THERE ARE THINGS THAT A SUPERMAN JUST CAN'T-- OR *WON'T* DO.

LOOKING FOR A LITTLE COMPANY, BIG BOY?

CAT?! HEY, YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T BE UP HERE!

OH, C'MON NOW! WHEN I LOOKED OUT THE WINDOW AND SAW YOU ALL ALONE UP HERE--

-- I FIGURED THE *LEAST* I COULD DO WAS COME UP AND HELP YOU *TO GUARD MY BODY.*

ARE YOU NUTS?!

WE'RE GETTING YOU BACK DOWN STAIRS RIGHT NOW!

OH, I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL BE GOING BACK DOWN QUITE THAT SOON--

-- BUT YOU CERTAINLY WILL BE!

THE *ROOF*-- IT'S GIVING WAY!

THIS IS IT!

INTERGANG'S MAKING THEIR MOVE!

BOY, AIN'T YOU THE SMART ONE? YOU DON'T MISS A TRICK!

MY HANDLE'S SHOCKWAVE, CHUMP--

!UGH!

--AND YOU'RE GONNA BE THRILLED TA *DEATH*, TA MEET ME!

HAW HAWW GET IT?

SHOCKWAVE, YOU ARE AN ABSOLUTE FOOL!

IF YOU BEAT HIM ANY FURTHER HE WILL BE COMPLETELY UNRECOGNIZABLE--

--AND I *MUST* SEE HIS UNBLEMISHED FACE TO PLY MY CRAFT.

W--WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH CAT?

OH, THAT WASN'T MS. GRANT YOU JUST SAW, DELGADO.

IT WAS ME.

I AM WHAT THEY CALL A HUMAN CHAMELEON, YOU SEE.

A CRUCIAL AND VALUABLE SKILL FOR MY TRADE.

FOR I AM *CHILLER*-- THE BEST ASSASSIN MONEY CAN BUY--

--AND INTERGANG HAS MET MY FEE!

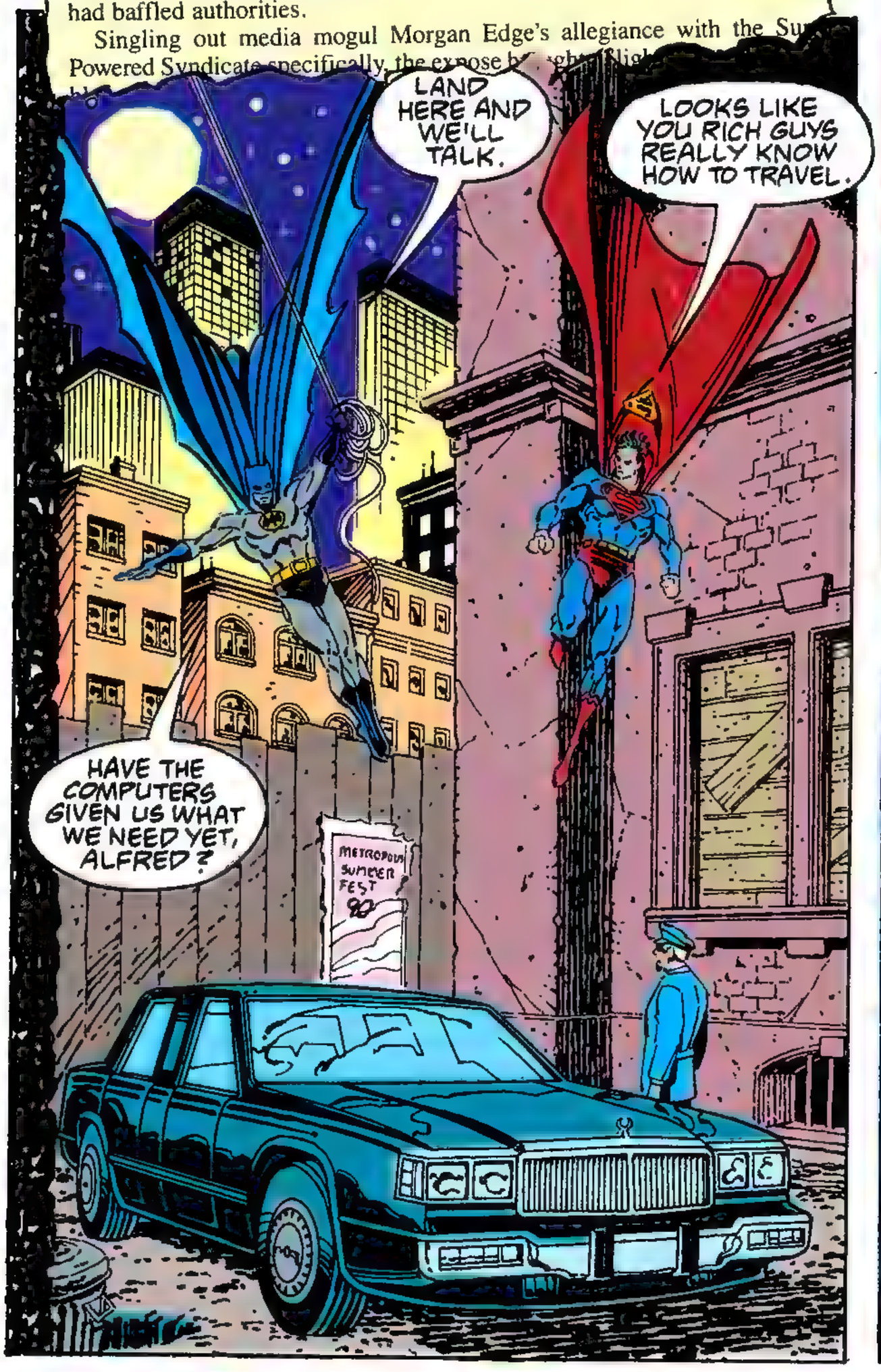
I AM DONE WITH HIM, SHOCKWAVE. DO WHAT YOU WILL.

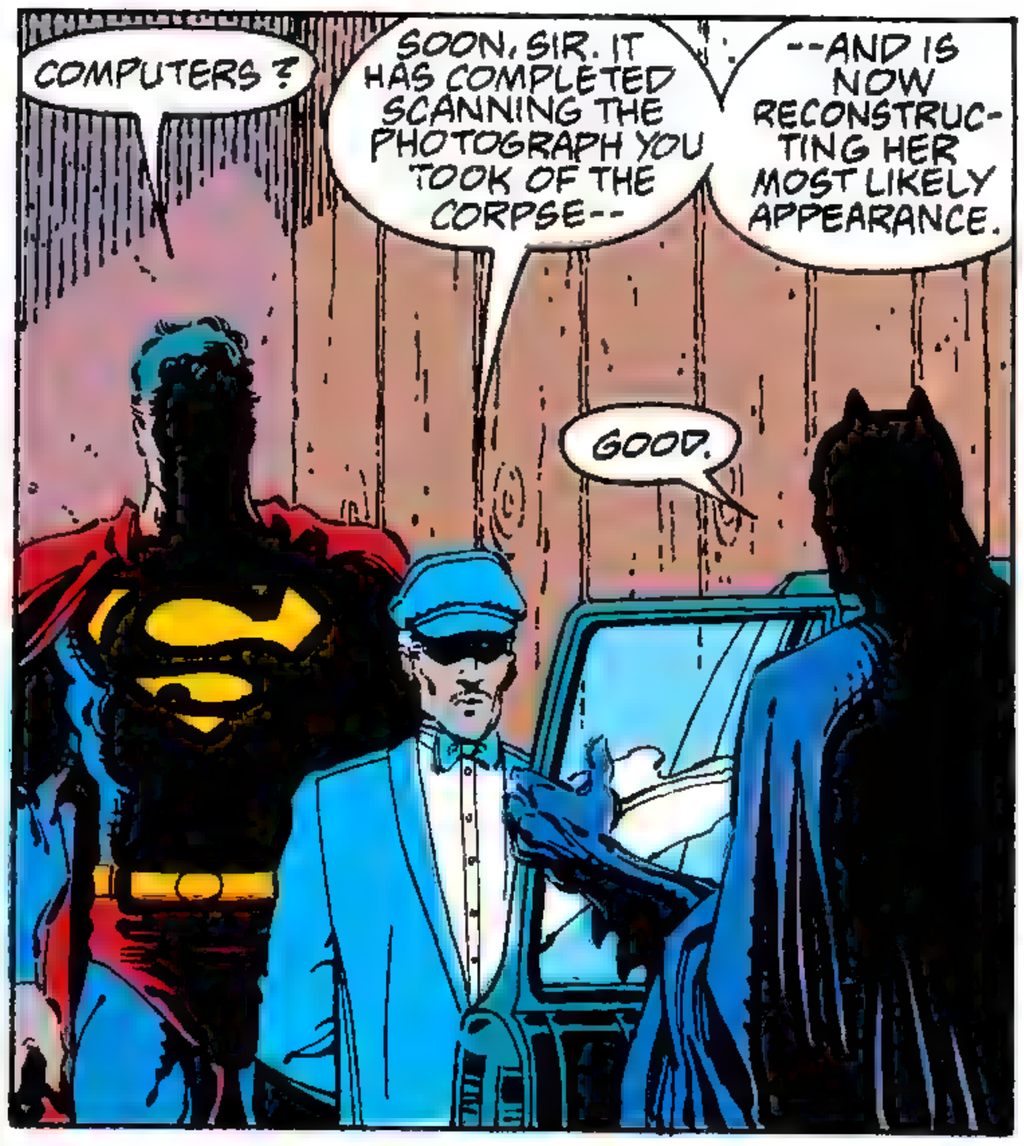
Zenith Awards continued from

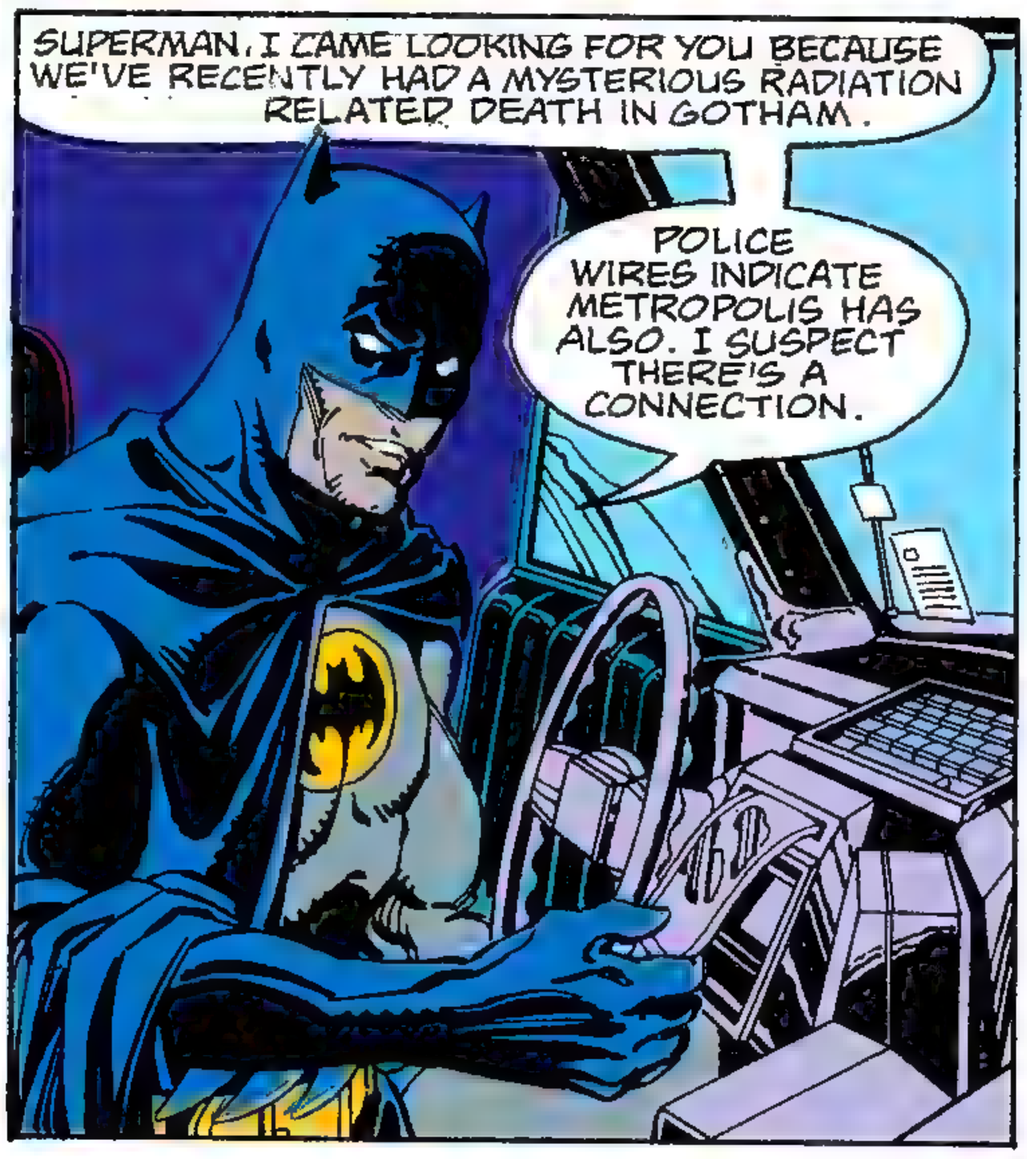
Clark Kent, formerly a staff-columnist for the Daily Planet, is expected to dominate the awards tonight for his brilliant series exposing the underworld activities of Intergang—the elusive crime cartel allegedly based in Metropolis.

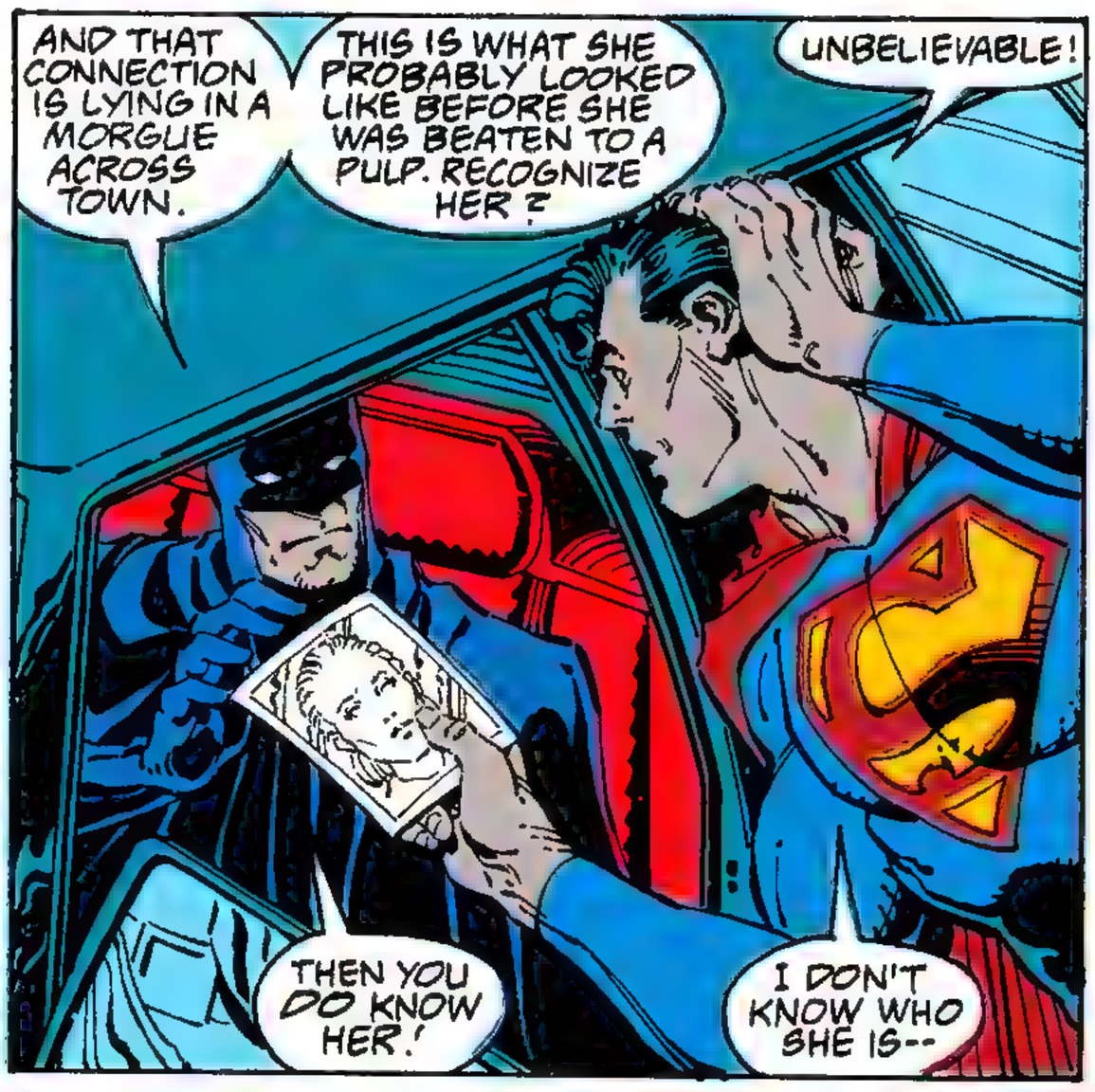
Aided by Lois Lane and—oddly enough—gossip columnist Catherin Grant, Kent's hard-hitting series shed light on years of criminal activity that had baffled authorities.

Singling out media mogul Morgan Edge's allegiance with the Su Powered Syndicate specifically, the expose b


LAND HERE AND WE'LL TALK.
LOOKS LIKE YOU RICH GUYS REALLY KNOW HOW TO TRAVEL.
HAVE THE COMPUTERS GIVEN US WHAT WE NEED YET, ALFRED?
METROPOLIS SUMMER FEST '80


COMPUTERS?
SOON, SIR. IT HAS COMPLETED SCANNING THE PHOTOGRAPH YOU TOOK OF THE CORPSE--
--AND IS NOW RECONSTRUCTING HER MOST LIKELY APPEARANCE.
GOOD.


SUPERMAN, I CAME LOOKING FOR YOU BECAUSE WE'VE RECENTLY HAD A MYSTERIOUS RADIATION RELATED DEATH IN GOTHAM.
POLICE WIRES INDICATE METROPOLIS HAS ALSO. I SUSPECT THERE'S A CONNECTION.


AND THAT CONNECTION IS LYING IN A MORGUE ACROSS TOWN.
THIS IS WHAT SHE PROBABLY LOOKED LIKE BEFORE SHE WAS BEATEN TO A PULP. RECOGNIZE HER?
UNBELIEVABLE!
THEN YOU DO KNOW HER!
I DON'T KNOW WHO SHE IS--

--BUT A FEW WEEKS AGO SHE ASKED ME TO MEET HER IN A CEMETERY. SOMEHOW SHE FOUND OUT WHO I REALLY AM--
--AND THREATENED TO EXPOSE THAT FACT!

HMMM. YOU DIDN'T DO THIS TO KEEP HER QUIET?

I'M NOT EVEN GOING TO ANSWER THAT.

Metropolis Summer Fest 90

TELL ME ABOUT THE WOMAN.

SHE KNEW A LOT MORE THAN MY IDENTITY.

SHE ALSO HAD A RING WITH A RADIOACTIVE STONE THAT CAN KILL ME.

AND I HAVE EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE RING IS CONNECTED TO LEX LUTHOR.

UHM... HMMM... A RING. GO ON.

NO REASON TO LET HIM KNOW I ACTUALLY HAVE THE RING.

IT MAY COME IN HANDY.

IF THE RING WAS CONNECTED TO LUTHOR--

--THEN SHE MIGHT BE, TOO. THAT'S WHERE WE START OUR INVESTIGATION, SUPERMAN--

"--WE'RE BREAKING INTO LEXCORP!"

The enigmatic Lex Luthor has sponsored the "Zenith" awards—disparagingly referred to as the "Baldy" awards by his detractors for its chrome-dome design—for several years now. "Just my way of honoring excellence and integrity in journalism in my city," the millionaire businessman is quoted as saying.

Luthor, arguably Metropolis' greatest benefactor besides the Man of Steel himself, has maintained a low profile of late. Some speculate his retreat is due to the loss of his right hand, the result of a lab experiment gone awry.

BREAKING AND ENTERING JUST ISN'T MY *USUAL MODUS OPERANDI*, BATMAN.

SURE. YOUR STYLE WOULD BE TO BREAK DOWN THE DOOR AND LOOK TOUGH UNTIL LUTHOR GAVE YOU WHAT YOU WANTED.

A USELESS ENDEAVOR.

LUTHOR DOESN'T STRIKE ME AS THE KIND OF GUY WHO IS EASILY BEATEN WHEN IT COMES TO PLAYING "CHICKEN."

YOU WANT INFORMATION-- WE DO IT MY WAY.

IF I CONSIDERED MYSELF ABOVE THE LAW LIKE YOU DO--

-- I WOULD'VE KILLED LUTHOR LONG AGO.

IF SOME OF THE RUMORS I'VE HEARD ABOUT LUTHOR ARE TRUE, YOU MIGHT CONSIDER IT.

DODGE THOSE CAMERAS-- NO SENSE TIPPING SECURITY TO US.

DON'T WORRY.

THE CAMERAS ARE TAKEN CARE OF.

HOW DID YOU MANAGE THAT?

YOU HAVE YOUR TECHNIQUES--

-- AND I HAVE *MINE*.

UH-OH... EVERY CAMERA IN SECTOR LEX JUST SHORTED OUT.

AND OUR HEAT SENSORS ARE PICKING UP TWO UNIDENTIFIED INTRUDERS!

LET'S SOUND A SILENT ALARM THIS TIME!

AFTER THE TROUBLE WE HAD A FEW WEEKS AGO* I DON'T HAVE A LOT OF CONFIDENCE IN THE WARSUIT DIVISION!

LEXCOR

RULES ARE RULES.

*ADVENTURES #466

THIS IS AN INTRIGUING SET-UP. COULD BE A VAULT.

LOOKS LIKE IT. AND WHOEVER WAS HERE LAST LEFT IN A HURRY!

CAN'T IMAGINE ANYONE WOULD TAKE *ANYTHING* FROM HERE...

LUTHOR WOULD HUNT THEM DOWN IN HOURS!

WELL, *SOMEBODY* TOOK *SOMETHING*. THAT PEDESTAL HELD SOMETHING IMPORTANT.

LIKE A RING.

WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK-- I CAN FEEL IT!

THEN LET'S SEE WHAT THE COMPUTERS CAN TELL US ABOUT YOUR MYSTERIOUS LADY FRIEND.

I'LL KEEP LOOKOUT. EVEN THOUGH I SHORTED THE CAMERA'S ELECTRONICS WITH MY HEAT VISION--

--SECURITY IS BOUND TO FIND US EVENTUALLY.

EVEN WORSE--IF THAT WOMAN IS ALLIED WITH LUTHOR HE MAY KNOW I'M CLARK KENT.

EVERYONE I LOVE AND CARE ABOUT COULD BE IN GRAVE *DANGER*!

ALERT TO WARSUIT DIVISION ONE! RESPOND TO INTRUDERS IN SECTOR LEX!

NO SWEAT, SECURITY! WE'RE ON OUR WAY!

ANY LUCK?

AFTER CROSS-REFERENCING HER RECONSTRUCTED PHOTO WITH EMPLOYEES PAST AND PRESENT,,, I COME UP WITH ZIP!

"THE LAST THING WE NEED IS TO GET AMBUSHED BY THOSE CRAZY DEFENSE TROOPS YOU TOLD ME ABOUT!"

LET'S FACE IT-- IF LUTHOR IS RUNNING A SECRET OPERATION HE MIGHT'VE ERASED HER FILES.

BUT I'VE RANSACKED FILTHIER TRASH CANS THAN THE ONES FOUND IN ANY COMPUTER.

WE AREN'T LEAVING EMPTY-HANDED. KEEP THOSE SUPER-SENSES TUNED UP.

CAN'T SHAKE THE EERIE FEELING THAT LUTHOR IS ON TO MY SECRET!

MA AND PA ARE SO VULNERABLE--

--IT'S KILLING ME THAT THEY'D BE EASY PREY FOR SOMEONE WHO HAS THE FIRE POWER HE DOES!

BINGO! WE GOT HER!

AMANDA MARIE MCCOY! 7324 CHESTERFIELD STREET!

WAIT--I HEAR ROCKET PACKS COMING FROM ABOUT TWO LEVELS DOWN!

WE HAVE WHAT WE CAME FOR--LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

FIRST LUTHOR'S AWARDS THEN CHESTERFIELD STREET... WHERE WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO WRAP THIS THING UP FOR GOOD!

RIGHT.

I WANT TO STARE LUTHOR DOWN AND FIND OUT JUST HOW MUCH HE KNOWS!

AND IF HE DOES KNOW-- IT WOULD BE MY GREATEST FEAR COME TRUE!

HEY! THERE AIN'T NOBODY HERE!

GOOD THING MR. L IS OUT AT HIS ESTATE TONIGHT--

--OR WE WOULDN'T HAVE TIME TO BUY BUS TICKETS OUTTA TOWN!

START PACKIN', BUD... MR. L ALWAYS KNOWS WHAT GOES DOWN WHEN HE'S OUT.

BINNG BONNG

COMING!

MR. DELGADO, YOU LOOK ABSOLUTELY SCRUMPTIOUS!

GIVE ME A SEC TO FINISH MY NAILS AND THEN WE'LL SCOOT!

TAKE YOUR TIME, CAT!

THIS IS ONE JOB I'M ENJOYING SO MUCH--

-- I WON'T MIND STRETCHING IT OUT A BIT.

Powered Syndicate specifically, the expo… …an bla… …ilog series she might… …year.

So until tomorrow I'll leave you all with the questions on all of Metropolis' minds—What glorious surprises will tonight's Baldy Awards hold? And if not Clark Kent, then who will dominate the awards? This is one society columnist who's looking forward to an explosive evening at the Lex's soiree no matter what!

Ciao, Metropolis — Rollin

KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED, MARTIN! THIS JOINT IS A POWDER KEG WAITING TO EXPLODE!

YOU REALLY THINK INTERGANG WILL ATTACK, INSPECTOR HENDERSON?

ALL I KNOW IS THAT MORGAN EDGE'S TRIAL STARTS TOMORROW AND I DOUBT THEY WANT THIS PLANET WRITER TO TESTIFY!

GOTCHA.

LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE IN JOURNALISM IS HERE!

HEY, THERE'S STEVE LOMBARD!

QUICK... LET'S MAKE OUR WAY ACROSS TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PATIO OR WE'LL END UP ON THAT DIPPY SHOW OF HIS!

EXCUSE ME, AREN'T YOU CLARK KENT?

BRUCE WAYNE. I COULDN'T LET THE EVENING PASS WITHOUT TELLING YOU HOW MUCH I ADMIRED YOUR INTERGANG SERIES!

GOOD TO SEE YOU, BRUCE. THIS IS MY DATE, LOIS LANE.

CHARMED. I'VE LONG ADMIRED YOUR COLUMN AS WELL.

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ALONE TONIGHT, MR. WAYNE.

CALL ME BRUCE. WITH ALL THE BEAUTIFUL WOMEN HERE I SEE NO REASON TO TIE MYSELF DOWN TO ONLY ONE.

WELL, WELL, WELL! LOOK, WHO'S HERE!

LUTHOR! IF HE REALLY KNOWS, WILL HE PICK TONIGHT TO LET THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG?

LEX LUTHOR, I'VE WANTED TO MEET YOU FOR SOME TIME NOW!

THE FEELING IS MUTUAL, WAYNE. ONE WOULD HAVE EXPECTED OUR PATHS TO CROSS IN BUSINESS LONG AGO!

THAT'S IT... POUR ON THE CHARM, LUTHOR... YOU'RE FOOLING THEM ALL.

BUT NOT ME... I KNOW YOU'RE A *MONSTER!* AND I'LL NEVER FORGET WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO MY MOTHER!

YOU'RE A SPECIAL MAN, WAYNE--

--AS IS OUR FRIEND, KENT, HERE.

AREN'T YOU, KENT?

WHAT'S HE GETTING AT?

I'M AFRAID I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN...

OF COURSE YOU DO! WHY KEEP IT A SECRET? WHY NOT REVEAL--

OH... NO! HERE IT COMES!

--HOW YOU SAVED MY LIFE BY GRABBING A GUNMAN'S ARM A FEW MONTHS BACK?*

SURELY SOMEONE WHO IS BRAVE ENOUGH TO TAKE ON INTERGANG ISN'T TOO *MODEST* TO ACCEPT *MY* GRATITUDE!

I AM IN YOUR DEBT, SIR, AND THAT DEBT *SHALL* BE REPAID!

* ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #447

WHEW!...

OH, MY GOD! WHAT IS THAT-- THAT-- THING?!

MOVE IT! FAN OUT AND FIND KENT AND LANE--

--AND GUN 'EM DOWN!

HENDERSON TO HEADQUARTERS! TELL MAGGIE SAWYER TO GET HER SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT OUT HERE--

--PRONTO!

THIS IS YOUR OLD BUDDY STEVE LOMBARD COMING TO YOU *LIVE* FROM THE *WAR ZONE* AT LUTHOR ESTATES--

--PROVING ONCE AGAIN THAT "AMERICA'S PUBLIC ENEMIES" GOES WHERE THE ACTION IS!

LOMBARD, YOU OBNOXIOUS IDIOT! YOU'RE BROADCASTING AN INTERGANG *HIT!*

WITH MY TRIAL PENDING THIS IS THE *LAST* THING I NEED!

WHY DIDN'T THAT TROOPER MENTION CAT? COULD IT BE THAT--?

KENT!

LOOK OUT!

LUTHOR?!

I CAN'T *BELIEVE* INTERGANG IS SO BRAZEN TO ATTACK IN PUBLIC!

THEY'RE TRYING TO DO MORE THAN *KILL* YOU, LOIS!

THEY ALSO WANT TO MAKE AN *EXAMPLE* OF YOU!

CONSIDER MY DEBT *PAID*, KENT!

TH-THANKS!

HE REALLY THINKS HE SAVED MY LIFE! HE *CAN'T* KNOW!

BUT I *STILL* HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO STOP ALL THIS!

YOU STAY PUT. I'M GOING TO SEE IF I CAN FIND HELP!

BUT--

STAY *PUT*! AND KEEP YOUR *HEAD* DOWN!

THE POOL AND A LITTLE HEAT VISION WILL HINDER *THEM* AND COVER *ME*!

HEY, WHAT'S GOIN' ON? THE POOL'S STEAMIN' UP!

I CAN'T SEE A BLASTED THING!

WHO CARES? JUST FIND KENT AND LANE!

FIND 'EM?

I CAN'T EVEN SEE MY HAND IN FRONT OF MY FACE!

EXACTLY THE POINT.

YOU CAN'T HANDLE 'EM ALL, BATMAN! YOU'RE DONE FOR!

NO.

WE'RE NOT DONE--

--INTERGANG IS!

BLAM

NICE. I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS YOUR STYLE TO INCAPACITATE PEOPLE.

IT ISN'T.

I USED MY X-RAY VISION TO MAKE SURE NO ONE WAS IN THE SECTION I DESTROYED.

--AND THAT THE OTHERS HAD PARACHUTES.

THIS INTERGANG PLAYS FOR KEEPS. HAVEN'T YOU EVER TRIED TO NAIL THEM GOOD?

THEY OPERATE IN SHADOWS. NO ONE REALLY KNOWS WHO RUNS THE ORGANIZATION.

MY ARTICLES PUT QUITE A DENT IN THEM BUT THEY'RE STILL KICKING!

MY ESTATE...

SUPERMAN AND TWO OF GOTHAM'S MOST FAMOUS CITIZENS ALL IN ONE NIGHT.

HOW LUCKY CAN WE GET?

TELL ME, LOIS, HAS CAT GRANT ARRIVED YET?

NO SIGN OF HER SO FAR! SURELY YOU DON'T THINK THAT...?

YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS MESS AND I EXPECT YOU TO CLEAN IT UP, SUPERMAN!

SAVE IT, LUTHOR! A FRIEND OF MINE COULD BE IN TROUBLE--

--I DON'T HAVE *TIME* FOR YOUR *GRANDSTANDING*!

THINK THEY'VE GOT GRANT?

POSITIVE.

HELLO, MISTAH MANNHEIM. DIS IS SHOCKWAVE REPORTIN'!

CHILLER GOT DAT GRANT CHICK 'N GANGBUSTER IS OUTTA IT!

CONDEMNED BY ORDER OF METROPOLIS FIRE DEPARTMENT

EXCELLENT! KILL THE FOOL-- AND MAKE SURE IT LOOKS LIKE AN ACCIDENT!

ACCIDENT, HUH? HOW 'BOUT A EARTHQUAKE!

YEAH, DAT'S DA TICKET!

KRAAAAM

A EARTHQUAKE!

KRRUMMMBLE

AAARRRRGH!

WRON

THOOOM

JOSÉ, I THINK OUR CABBIE IS LOST!

THIS IS DEFINITELY NOT THE WAY OUT TO LUTHOR'S!

FORGET LUTHOR, CAT. YOU'RE ALONE WITH ME NOW...

JOSÉ!?

NOT ANY MORE... YOU SEE, I CAN BE ANYONE YOU WANT--

--UNTIL I HAND YOU OVER TO INTERGANG, THAT IS.

HA HA HAHAA!

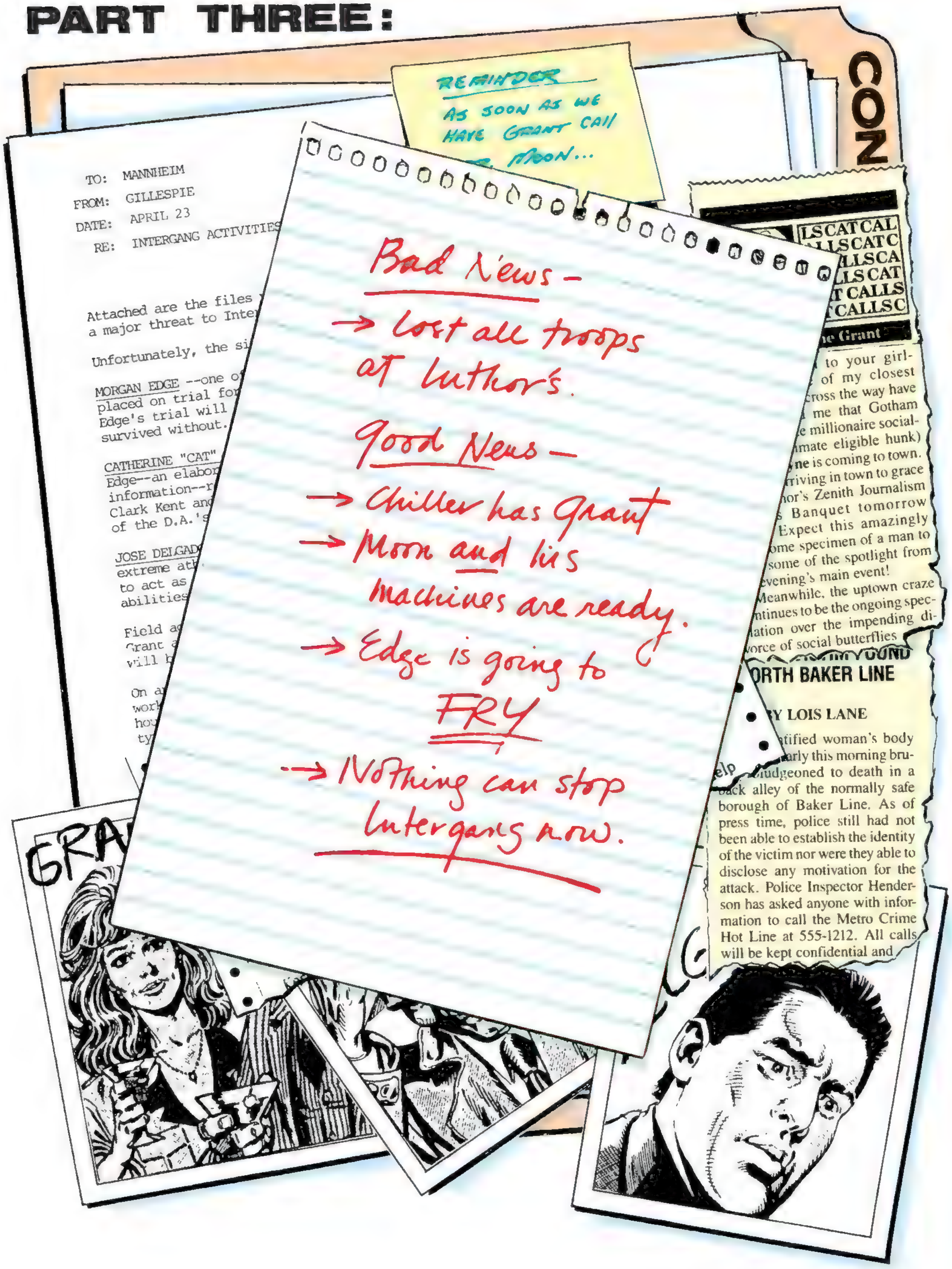
AAIIEEEE

INTEGRATED

BUSINESS MOVER

CONCLUDED IN ACTION COMICS #654 ON SALE IN ONE WEEK!

PART THREE:


REMINDER
AS SOON AS WE HAVE GRANT CALL
MOON...
TO: MANNHEIM
FROM: GILLESPIE
DATE: APRIL 23
RE: INTERGANG ACTIVITIES
Attached are the files
a major threat to Inte
Unfortunately, the si
MORGAN EDGE --one o
placed on trial fo
Edge's trial will
survived without.
CATHERINE "CAT"
Edge--an elabor
information--r
Clark Kent an
of the D.A.'s
JOSE DELGAD
extreme at
to act as
abilities
Field a
Grant
will
On a
work
ho
ty
Bad News -
→ Lost all troops at Luthor's.
Good News -
→ Chiller has Grant
→ Moon and his machines are ready.
→ Edge is going to FRY
→ Nothing can stop Intergang now.
CON
LSCATCAL
LLSCATC
ALLSCA
LLSCAT
T CALLS
CALLSC
e Grant
to your girl-
of my closest
cross the way have
me that Gotham
e millionaire social-
mate eligible hunk)
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of the victim nor were they able to
disclose any motivation for the
attack. Police Inspector Hender-
son has asked anyone with infor-
mation to call the Metro Crime
Hot Line at 555-1212. All calls
will be kept confidential and

DARK KNIGHT™ OVER METROPOLIS™

YOUR TWO FAVORITE HEROES

SUPERMAN® AND BATMAN®

Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

CREATED by BOB KANE

IN ONE ADVENTURE TOGETHER!

* * * URGENT... all stations clear for Metropolis feed * * *

From Metropolis Daily Planet...

An assault on the country estate of Lexcorp C.E.O. Lex Luthor early this evening has been thwarted by the combined efforts of Superman and the mysterious Batman of Gotham.

Over a dozen masked men, apparently in the employ of the criminal cartel Intergang, were dropped onto the grounds of the estate shortly after dark. The presumed targets of the attack were Daily Planet reporters Clark Kent and Lois Lane, who were among the many gathered at the estate for the seventh annual Lex Luthor Integrity in Journalism Awards -- better known as the Zeniths. The assault was ended mere moments after it began by the intervention of the two caped crimefighters

As police, under the command of Inspector William Henderson, took the attackers into custody, both Superman and Batman disappeared.

I DON'T REALLY NEED YOUR HELP...

NO? INTER-GANG CONTINUES TO OPERATE IN THIS CITY, DESPITE YOUR EFFORTS--

--AND THEY MAY ALREADY HAVE CATHERINE GRANT IN THEIR POWER.

I'D SAY YOU NEED ALL THE HELP YOU CAN GET.

ROGER STERN - WRITER
BOB McLEOD & BRETT BREEDING - ARTISTS
BILL OAKLEY LETTERER
GLENN WHITMORE COLORIST
JON PETERSON ASSOCIATE
MIKE CARLIN EDITOR

METROPOLIS IS MY CITY, BATMAN, NOT YOURS! AND I'M NOT ACCUSTOMED TO WORKING WITH A PARTNER!

I KNOW. IT TAKES GETTING USED TO.

I DON'T WISH TO STEP ON YOUR TOES, BUT WE DO HAVE OTHER BUSINESS PENDING. THE SOONER WE ASCERTAIN MS. GRANT'S SAFETY--

--THEN THE SOONER WE CAN SOLVE THE MYSTERY WHICH BROUGHT ME TO METROPOLIS... AND THE SOONER I WILL DEPART.

VERY WELL. I SUPPOSE YOU KNOW THAT CAT IS THE MAJOR PROSECUTION WITNESS IN THE MORGAN EDGE TRIAL.

YES. AS I RECALL, SHE ACTED AS YOUR... OR RATHER, KENT'S MOLE... UNCOVERING EDGE'S CONNECTION WITH INTERGANG.

THAT'S RIGHT. SHE'S BEEN UNDER GUARD--!

KRRUMMB

GOOD LORD!

EVEN I COULD HEAR THAT. IT SOUNDED LIKE A BUILDING CAVING IN!

NOT JUST ANY BUILDING! IT'S THE OLD KAYE BROTHERS WAREHOUSE-- RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET FROM CAT'S APARTMENT!

YOU DON'T THINK--? WOULD EVEN INTERGANG COLLAPSE AN ENTIRE BUILDING AS A DIVERSION?

THEY MIGHT.

IN THAT CASE, YOU'D BETTER INSPECT THE WRECKAGE...

...I'LL CHECK GRANT'S APARTMENT.

CURIOUS. EVEN THE JOKER'S LUNACIES BETRAY A TWISTED LOGIC--

--BUT THERE SEEMS TO BE NO RHYME OR REASON TO INTERGANG'S ACTIONS.

NO SIGNS OF AN EXPLOSION... THE STRUCTURE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN KNOCKED DOWN FROM THE INSIDE OUT!

I DOUBT THAT EVEN I COULD HAVE DONE SO THOROUGHLY DESTRUCTIVE A JOB IN SUCH A SHORT TIME. WHAT SORT OF POWER--?

OH, NO... NO!

HOW COULD I HAVE FORGOTTEN? I LEFT *HIM* HERE, NOT MORE THAN AN HOUR AGO... KEEPING WATCH OVER CAT'S APARTMENT.

GANGBUSTER.

HEY, DOWN THERE!

WHAT--?!?

HANG ONTO THAT! I MIGHT NEED IT!

DELGADO! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

WELL, I'VE BEEN BETTER.

WHAT THE DEVIL--

"--IS GOING ON AROUND HERE?"

NO SIGNS OF ANY STRUGGLE. AND YET, SUPERMAN SAID GRANT WAS BEING GUARDED. IF SHE WAS ABDUCTED FROM HER APARTMENT--

--IT MUST HAVE BEEN DONE VERY SMOOTHLY.

I WOULDN'T HAVE EXPECTED SUCH SUBTLETY OF INTERGANG. HAVE I UNDER-ESTIMATED THEM?

GOOD QUESTION.

I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE WHAT'S GOING DOWN MY-SELF--

--BUT MAYBE TO-GETHER--

--WE CAN MAKE SENSE OF IT.

YOU LOOK AWFUL! ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?

I THINK SO. CHALK IT UP TO CLEAN LIVING AND DUMB LUCK.

ESPECIALLY GOOD PROTECTIVE GEAR.

AND GOOD PROTECTIVE GEAR?

NOT LONG AFTER WE LAST SPOKE, I WAS SURPRISED BY A COUPLE OF HEAVY-DUTY BOYS, WORKING FOR INTERGANG. THEY CALLED THEMSELVES *CHILLER* AND *SHOCKWAVE*.

SHOCKWAVE RIPPED THE FOOTING RIGHT OUT FROM UNDER ME--

"--AND STARTED PLAYING PATTY-CAKE WITH MY HEAD. CHILLER JUST LOOKED LIKE DEATH WARMED-OVER. I MUST'VE STARTED TO LOSE IT ABOUT THEN..."

...OR MAYBE THEY DRUGGED ME... I IMAGINED THAT CHILLER'S FACE TURNED INTO MINE! I KNOW I PASSED OUT...

"...I CAME TO, TRUSSED UP LIKE A MARIONETTE... WITH SHOCKWAVE STOMPING THE BUILDING APART AROUND US!

"JUST AS EVERYTHING CAME APART, MY ROPES CAME LOOSE AS WELL, I DOVE FOR THE NEAREST WINDOW--AND MADE IT ONTO THAT FIRE ESCAPE!"

INTER-GANG'S BEEN BUSY.

THEY ALSO ATTACKED LUTHOR'S AWARDS CEREMONY TONIGHT. CAT GRANT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THERE, BUT SHE NEVER SHOWED UP.

NOT SURPRISING, I WAS SUPPOSED TO ESCORT... OH, NO!

CHILLER! MAYBE IT WASN'T MY IMAGINATION. IF HE DID MAKE HIMSELF LOOK LIKE ME, THEN CAT--!

:UUUUNNGH?:

YOU... STILL STANDIN'? THA' CAN'T BE... I WUZ ORDERED TO KILL YOU!

SHOCK-WAVE?

SHOCKWAVE.

OUTTA THE WAY, BLUE BOY... GOT ME A CONTRACT TO FILL!

SUPERMAN--?

LET ME HANDLE THIS.

SOON, IN AN OUTLYING INDUSTRIAL PARK...

INTEGRATED BUSINESS MOVERS

...ME GO, YOU MONSTER! LET ME GO OR I'LL--!

GO AHEAD ...SCREAM AGAIN!

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!

JEEZ, DON'T ENCOURAGE HER!

JUST DO YOUR JOB AND LET ME DO MINE, OKAY?

TAXI

BATES

POLICE! MURDER!! HEELLP!!!

YELL YOUR LITTLE HEART OUT. IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD.

THE CAB LOST YOUR POLICE ESCORT LONG BEFORE WE TRANSFERRED TO THAT TRUCK. NO ONE CAN HELP YOU HERE!

YOU MISREPRESENT US, CHILLER--

--AFTER ALL, WHY *ARE* WE HERE, BUT TO "HELP" HER?

GOOD EVENING, MS. GRANT. I AM *DOCTOR MOON*.

GENTLEMEN, PLEASE SEE OUR GUEST TO HER CHAIR.

THE APPARATUS YOU SEE HERE-- *MOST GRACIOUSLY* PROVIDED ME BY INTERGANG--IS A MAJOR OFF-SHOOT OF MY RESEARCH INTO THE MIND.

WHAT I INTEND TO DO IS ALTER YOUR MEMORIES EVER SO SLIGHTLY...

OMIGOD. YOU... YOU'RE GOING TO ELECTROCUTE ME?!

HARDLY, MS. GRANT. WE DO NOT WISH YOUR DEATH... THAT WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.

...TO INSURE THAT YOUR TESTIMONY IS MORE FAVORABLE TO MR. MORGAN EDGE.

THEN...YOU'RE GOING TO *BRAINWASH* ME?!

NOTHING SO CRUDE AND IMPERMANENT AS THAT! I PREFER TO THINK OF MY PROCESS AS "RE-PROGRAMMING."

YOU MAY FEEL SOME DISCOMFORT.

YOU GUYS HEAR ABOUT THE FIASCO AT THE LUTHOR PARTY?

YEAH, THE WALL-CRAWLERS REALLY BOTCHED THAT HIT ON KENT AND LANE.

HEY, I HEARD THAT SUPERMAN AND BATMAN BOTH SHOWED UP.

SO? I BET OUR HEAVY-METAL SQUAD COULD'VE HANDLED 'EM!

WHAT? DID I HEAR THAT CORRECTLY?

AN INTERGANG DIVISION LAUNCHED AN ATTACK, IN A PUBLIC SETTING, DURING MY MISSION?!

WHY?!? I NEEDED NO DIVERSION!

OLD BUSINESS, CHILLER... LANE AND KENT HAD BOTH CROSSED INTERGANG TOO MANY TIMES! IT'S COMPANY POLICY TO MAKE EXAMPLES OF PROVEN ENEMIES.

AND IF WE *SHOCK TROOPS* HAD HANDLED IT, IT WOULD'VE BEEN DONE RIGHT!

BUT WHY DRAW ATTENTION TO INTERGANG BEFORE THE TRIAL?

I WOULDN'T EXPECT A FREELANCER TO UNDERSTAND!

AH, MR. CHILLER... A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME, PLEASE.

EH? ALL RIGHT.

OGOD OGOD OGOD OGOD

I PERSONALLY AGREE WITH YOU, BUT WE HAVE CONTRACTED TO WORK WITH THESE PEOPLE... WE WILL HAVE TO PUT UP WITH THEIR IDIOSYNCRACIES.

I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT, BUT THEY MIGHT HAVE JEOPARDIZED OUR MISSION!

OVERCOMING GANGBUSTER WAS ONE THING. IT'S QUITE ANOTHER MATTER TO GO UP AGAINST SUPERMAN AND--!

THE BATMAN!!

WHAT?! WHERE?!?

"THERE! BUT HOW DID THEY FIND US? HOW?!?"

FSSSSS

SHOCK-WAVE! THAT IDIOT MUST HAVE TALKED!

WOK

WHUD

RED ALERT! HEAVY-METAL BOYS, FRONT AND CENTER!

MOON! SO YOU'RE MIXED UP IN THIS!

DON'T GO AWAY, I'LL BE RIGHT WITH YOU!

GO--GO--GO!!

THAT'S IT--PILE ON 'IM! PIN 'IM DOWN!

YOU'RE NOT UP AGAINST SOME WEAK-SISTER WALL-CRAWLERS NOW--YOU'RE FACING FOUR UNITS OF HEAVY METAL!

THIS IS NO GOOD. THOSE SHOCK TROOPERS CAN DELAY SUPERMAN FOR NO MORE THAN A FEW MINUTES, AT MOST! AND THE BATMAN IS MUCH TOO FAST FOR THE OTHERS!

I MUST MAKE THE MOST OF THE SMOKE AND CON-FUSION...

...STILL, THERE SHOULD BE TIME ENOUGH TO FULFILL MY CONTRACT BEFORE I DEPART!

FAREWELL, MS. GRANT--

--PLEASANT MEMORIES!

NO! SOMEBODY, PLEASE--HELP ME!!

JOSÉ--!

HANDS OFF THAT SWITCH!

EH? WHO--?

THE NAME IS *GANGBUSTER!* AND THAT LADY IS MY RESPONSIBILITY!

WUK

ALL-RIGHT-- THAT'S-- *ENOUGH!*

THESE INTERGANGSTERS ARE IMPRESSIVELY EQUIPPED-- ALL THAT ARMOR-PLATING...

...TOO BAD THEIR *FACES* AREN'T AS PROTECTED!

OFF!!

WHY... WHY CAN'T WE *STOP* 'IM?! FOR GOD'S SAKE--

"--HE'S JUST ONE MAN!"

IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY, CAT... I'LL HAVE YOU OUT OF THIS IN NO TIME! NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT NOW...

THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK!

JOSE!

THAT'S IT--LET 'IM HAVE IT! ENERGY-TRUNCHEONS... FULL POWER!

IT'S WORKIN'! IT'S REALLY WORKIN'!!

AHGGH!

DON'T KNOW HOW THESE THINGS WORK, BUT IF THEY CAN HURT SUPERMAN, I DON'T WANT TO FIND OUT!

WHUUU--?

WATCH OUUU!

NICE TRY!

THAT WAS TOO CLOSE... ANOTHER FRACTION OF AN INCH, AND HE WOULD HAVE SLICED RIGHT THROUGH MY PADDING!

ZOKK

;OUUFH; LAST TIME... I TOOK A HIT LIKE THAT... I WAS ON THE RECEIVING END OF AN APOKOLIPS *MEGA-ROD!*

THOSE TRUNCHEONS AREN'T *QUITE* IN THE SAME CLASS, BUT THEY PACK 'WAY TOO MUCH POWER--

--TO BE ALLOWED TO STAY IN INTERGANG HANDS!

WHAT IN THE--? *YOW!*

IT'S THAT *HEAT VISION* OF HIS! I CAN'T HOLD ON--!

DON'T WORRY, I'LL GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO HOLD ONTO!

★#@!! I'LL SHOW YA--!

NO.

KOONG!

I DON'T THINK SO.

AWRIGHT, MEN, FAN OUT AND --HUH?! SUPER-MAN!

WE GOT YOUR CALL, SIR. I THOUGHT WE MADE PRETTY GOOD TIME GETTING HERE, BUT I GUESS IT WASN'T FAST ENOUGH.

THERE'S STILL PLENTY FOR YOU TO DO, OFFICER. YOU'LL NEED TO READ THESE MEN THEIR RIGHTS ... AS THEY COME TO.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MS. GRANT?

JUST FINE, THANKS TO GANG-BUSTER.

THANKS, BUT I DIDN'T DO MUCH MORE THAN BACK UP SUPERMAN AND BATMAN.

DON'T BE SILLY--YOU RISKED YOUR LIFE TO FREE ME!

I THINK YOU'RE WONDERFUL!

AW, I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!

WE'VE LOST TWO DIVISIONS TO SUPERMAN AND BATMAN, AND GRANT IS STILL FREE TO TESTIFY!

TELL ME SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW, GILLESPIE!

SO WHATTA WE DO NOW, MANNHEIM?

WE CUT OUR LOSSES.

MEANING--?

MEANING THAT MORGAN EDGE IS GOING TO TAKE THE RAP.

...SHOCKWAVE CRACKED COMPLETELY WHEN SUPERMAN STARTED PEELING HIS ARMOR LIKE A BANANA. HE TOLD US EXACTLY WHERE YOU'D BEEN TAKEN.

WELL, YOU WERE ALL MARVELOUS! BUT... WHERE IS THE BATMAN? I'D LIKE TO THANK HIM, TOO!

BATMAN? WHY, HE'S RIGHT OVER...

...THERE?

WELL, OBVIOUSLY HE WAS HERE.

Make very sure that this one gets locked away! You know where to find me—

YES, I KNOW...

"...AT THE ADDRESS YOU FOUND EARLIER THIS EVENING.

"7324 CHESTERFIELD STREET.

MY DIARY

"THAT'S WHERE. YOU SAID WE'D SOLVE THE MYSTERY THAT BROUGHT YOU HERE."

COME IN... I BELIEVE I'VE FOUND THE FINAL PIECES OF THE PUZZLE.

MY GOD, WHAT DID YOU DO TO THIS PLACE?

NOTHING.

I'M AFRAID THAT THINGS HAVE BEEN AS YOU SEE THEM FOR THE PAST COUPLE OF WEEKS.

DO YOU THINK THAT I WOULD NEED TO RANSACK AN APARTMENT TO FIND WHAT I WANTED?

NO, I SUPPOSE NOT.

THIS MESS WAS THE WORK OF WHOEVER KILLED AMANDA McCOY. *TWO* OF THEM, FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS.

TRY NOT TO TOUCH ANYTHING, THEIR FINGERPRINTS ARE ALL OVER THE PLACE.

A QUICK SURVEY SUGGESTS THAT THEY STOLE A SMALL TELEVISION AND A STEREO... ITEMS EASILY FENCED FOR CASH. BUT THEY COMPLETELY OVERLOOKED THE GREATEST TREASURE...

my diary

...AMANDA'S *DIARY*. GO AHEAD, TAKE A LOOK.

YOU'LL FIND THAT IT HOLDS A GREAT MANY SECRETS...

...INCLUDING THAT OF YOUR *DOUBLE IDENTITY!*

IT SEEMS THAT MS. McCOY WAS AN ACCOMPLISHED COMPUTER SCIENTIST WHOM LUTHOR HIMSELF TAPPED FOR A PET PROJECT OF HIS--

--DELVING INTO THE SECRETS OF YOUR PAST. SHE WAS VERY GOOD AT HER CRAFT.

LUTHOR'S PEOPLE HAD BORROWED, BOUGHT, OR *STOLEN* ALL THE DATA THEY COULD FIND ON SUPERMAN AND HIS KNOWN ASSOCIATES...

... BUT IT WAS AMANDA'S ANALYSIS OF THE DATA WHICH CONCLUDED THAT CLARK KENT AND SUPERMAN MUST BE ONE AND THE SAME!

LUTHOR, HOWEVER, DID NOT ACCEPT THAT CONCLUSION.

APPARENTLY, HE COULDN'T BELIEVE THAT A MAN OF YOUR POWER WOULD EVER DEIGN TO LIVE THE LIFE OF AN ORDINARY HUMAN BEING.

"FORTUNATE FOR *YOU*... UNFORTUNATE FOR HER. LUTHOR ORDERED THAT THE DATA BE PURGED FROM HIS COMPUTERS AND FIRED McCOY ON THE SPOT.

"BUT WHEN SHE LEFT LEXCORP, AMANDA TOOK A FEW ITEMS WITH HER... AMONG THEM, SOME OF THE RAW DATA SUCH AS YOUR MOTHER'S ***SCRAPBOOK***.

Scrap Book

"SHE HOPED TO USE IT TO PERSONALLY VINDICATE HER CONCLUSIONS. SHE MAILED IT ANONYMOUSLY TO CLARK KENT IN CARE OF THE DAILY PLANET--

"--BUT WHENEVER SHE TRIED TO CONFRONT YOU ABOUT IT OVER THE PHONE..."

HELLO, THIS IS CLARK KENT. I CAN'T COME TO THE PHONE RIGHT NOW, BUT IF YOU LEAVE YOUR NAME, NUMBER AND MESSAGE AFTER THE BEEP...

"AMANDA WAS NONE TOO EAGER TO LEAVE ANYTHING INCRIMINATING ON THE TAPE. HER FRUSTRATION MOUNTED AS THE MONTHS PASSED...

"... SHE EVEN BEGAN TO DOUBT HER OWN ANALYSIS. EVENTUALLY, SHE BECAME SO OBSESSED WITH PROVING HER CONCLUSIONS THAT SHE HIRED MATT STOCKTON, A PRIVATE DETECTIVE, TO HELP HER SHADOW KENT.

TAXI

"EVEN SO, SHE NEVER TOLD STOCKTON *WHY* HE WAS WATCHING YOU OR WHAT HE WAS LOOKING FOR. IT WAS AS THOUGH SHE CONSIDERED YOUR SECRET HER OWN AS WELL."

THE MYSTERY MUST HAVE INTRIGUED STOCKTON. HE BROKE INTO YOUR APARTMENT TO SEARCH IT... THE SAME NIGHT THAT IT WAS VISITED BY AN INTERGANG *HIT SQUAD*.

THEY THOUGHT THAT *HE* WAS KENT--AND THAT WAS THE END OF MR. STOCKTON.

"AMANDA BLAMED HERSELF FOR HIS DEATH, AND BECAME EVEN MORE DETERMINED TO PROVE YOUR DOUBLE IDENTITY.

"IN DESPERATION, SHE USED HER KNOWLEDGE OF LEXCORP SECURITY SYSTEMS TO BREAK INTO LUTHOR'S PERSONAL VAULTS AND STEAL A RING HE HAD FASHIONED..."

...A RING HE HAD STOPPED WEARING AFTER ITS *KRYPTONITE* STONE COST HIM HIS HAND.

ACCORDING TO THE DIARY'S FINAL ENTRY, SHE PLANNED TO CONFRONT KENT WITH THE RING AND FORCE HIM TO ADMIT THAT HE WAS SUPERMAN.

AND SO SHE DID.

SHE TRICKED ME INTO MEETING HER IN A REMOTE CEMETERY...SHE HAD ME AT HER MERCY WITH THAT RING. I PASSED OUT. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HAD BECOME OF HER UNTIL YOU TOLD ME.

AFTER SHE LEFT YOU, SHE MUST HAVE WALKED INTO THE WRONG NEIGHBORHOOD AT THE WRONG TIME... AND WAS KILLED FOR THE CONTENTS OF HER PURSE.

"BUT THE SAVAGES WHO LEFT HER IN THAT ALLEY WERE CANNIER THAN MOST...

ARSONIST ARRESTED

"...THEY TOOK HER KEYS AND USED THEM TO GAIN ACCESS TO HER APARTMENT AND LOOT IT."

THEN, THE KILLERS MUST HAVE THE RING.

NO, THEY DO NOT.

MY BEST GUESS IS THAT AMANDA *DROPPED* THE RING DURING THE ATTACK, AND IT FELL TO THE STREET UNNOTICED...

...UNTIL IT FOUND ITS WAY INTO THE *POSSESSION* OF A WANDERING VAGRANT ON HIS WAY OUT OF TOWN.

I FOUND *HIM* IN GOTHAM SHORTLY AFTER HE HAD DIED... AND THE RING CAME INTO *MY* POSSESSION.

YOU HAD IT ALL ALONG.

FOR THESE PAST FEW DAYS, YES.

IT WAS CONNECTED TO A DEATH IN MY CITY. THAT MADE IT MY BUSINESS.

I HAD TO LEARN THE FULL STORY BEHIND IT.

KRYPTONITE IS A VERY DANGEROUS ELEMENT. OUTSIDE OF THAT LEAD CASE, ITS RADIATIONS WOULD *KILL* ME IN A VERY SHORT TIME.

YOU HAVE ME AT A DIS-ADVANTAGE.

I KNOW.

AN ANONYMOUS TIP TO THE POLICE SHOULD LEAD THEM TO THIS APARTMENT--

--AND PROVIDE THEM WITH ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO TRACK DOWN THE KILLERS. OH, I ALSO NOTICED A *SMALLVILLE HIGH SCHOOL* YEARBOOK AND A KENT FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM AMID THE DEBRIS.

"I WOULDN'T LEAVE THOSE *OR* THE DIARY HERE FOR THE POLICE TO FIND... IF I WERE YOU."

GUILTY VERDICT IN EDGE TRIAL

GOOD.

VERY GOOD.

JANE DOE IDENTIFIED

SUSPECTS CONFESS.

YOU SEEM INORDINATELY PLEASED BY THE MORNING NEWS, SIR.

YES, ALFRED. OUR LITTLE TRIP TO METROPOLIS SEEMS TO HAVE PRODUCED SOME POSITIVE RESULTS.

BONG BONG BONG

GOOD LORD!

THE ALARM...

...SOMEONE'S IN THE CAVE.

BUT, HOW, SIR? WHO--?

I'LL SOON FIND OUT...

SO...

SIR, SHOULD I--?

NO, ALFRED, STAY PUT. I DON'T WANT YOU INVOLVED IN THIS.

I'LL HANDLE IT ON MY OWN.

IN AN ALCOVE BEHIND THE OLD GRANDFATHER CLOCK, BRUCE WAYNE SWIFTLY SLIPS INTO A CUSTOM-TAILORED GARMENT WHICH FITS HIM LIKE A SECOND SKIN--

--AND, PULLING A GREAT CLOAK AND COWL ABOUT HIM, HE RACES DOWN A CURVING STAIRCASE HEWN INTO THE STONE BENEATH THE FAMILY MANOR.

NICE PLACE YOU HAVE HERE.

A LITTLE EXOTIC FOR MY TASTES, BUT STILL VERY IMPRESSIVE. IT SUITS YOU.

LIBERTY

YOU DIDN'T COME HERE TO CRITIQUE MY DECOR.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I'M SORRY, I'M NOT IN THE HABIT OF BARGING IN ON FRIENDS UN-ANNOUNCED.

BUT THEN, WE'RE NOT EXACTLY FRIENDS... ARE WE?

YOU KNOW, THERE ARE MANY WHO STILL THINK THAT THE BATMAN IS A PSYCHOTIC VIGILANTE, NO BETTER THAN THE VERMIN HE HUNTS DOWN.

I THINK THEY'RE WRONG.

I THINK THE BATMAN IS SIMPLY A VERY SANE MAN WHO TRIES TO BRING JUSTICE TO AN OFTEN INSANE WORLD.

WE ARE VERY DIFFERENT, YOU AND I -- BUT I LIKE TO THINK THAT WE'RE WORKING FOR A SIMILAR CAUSE.

I HAVE MANY ENEMIES OF GREAT POWER. THERE ARE BEINGS WHO HAVE TRIED TO SUB-VERT MY WILL, *CON-TROL* ME. THEY HAVE NEVER COMPLETELY SUCCEEDED...

...BUT I LIVE IN FEAR THAT, *SOMEDAY*, THEY *MIGHT*. IF THAT SHOULD EVER HAPPEN, IF I SHOULD EVER LOSE CONTROL, THERE WOULD BE ONLY ONE SURE WAY TO STOP ME.

THE KRYPTONITE!

DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'RE ASKING?

YES. YES, I DO.

I WANT THE MEANS TO STOP ME --

"-- TO BE IN THE HANDS OF A MAN I CAN TRUST WITH MY LIFE."

END

FIRST THING IN THE MORNING:

DAILY PLANET

AS THE STREETS OF METROPOLIS COME TO LIFE, EVERYONE FALLS INTO HIS OR HER APPOINTED ROLE...

...INCLUDING THE SECURITY STAFF AND DOOR ATTENDANTS OF THE DAILY PLANET BUILDING...

GOOD MORNING, MS. LANE.

IS THAT A NEW OUTFIT?

NOTHING. NOT A NOD, NOT A PEEP. ZIP.

NO ONE PAUSES TO EVEN ACKNOWLEDGE THE EXISTENCE OF BERNIE SOBEL...

NICE EDITORIAL TODAY, MR. WHITE!

NOT THAT I UNDERSTOOD A WORD OF IT.

...WHICH IS JUST THE WAY BERNIE LIKES IT.

NOT THAT THERE AREN'T EXCEPTIONS:

GOOD MORNING, BERNIE.

HI, MR. KENT.

FUNNY THING ABOUT CLARK KENT. I ALWAYS SEE HIM *COMING INTO* THE BUILDING HERE...

...BUT I RARELY SEE HIM *LEAVE*.

FOR BERNIE (22-YEAR EMPLOYEE), IT'S *A PERFECT DAY* IF NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY HAPPENS...

UNFORTUNATELY, THIS WILL *NOT* BE A PERFECT DAY...

"REPORTS OF *STRANGE CREATURES* SIGHTED IN THE METROPOLIS WET-LANDS..."

HOW COME *I'M* NOT AROUND TO GET PICTURES WHEN "*STRANGE CREATURES*" PUT IN THEIR APPEARANCE--?

EX-HIPPIE TO HEAD GREENPEACE

DAILY

VOL II NO 1

ANIMAL "ODDITIES" SIGHTED IN METROPOLIS

I'M *NEVER* AROUND WHEN INTERESTING THINGS HAPPEN.

RAWWWR!

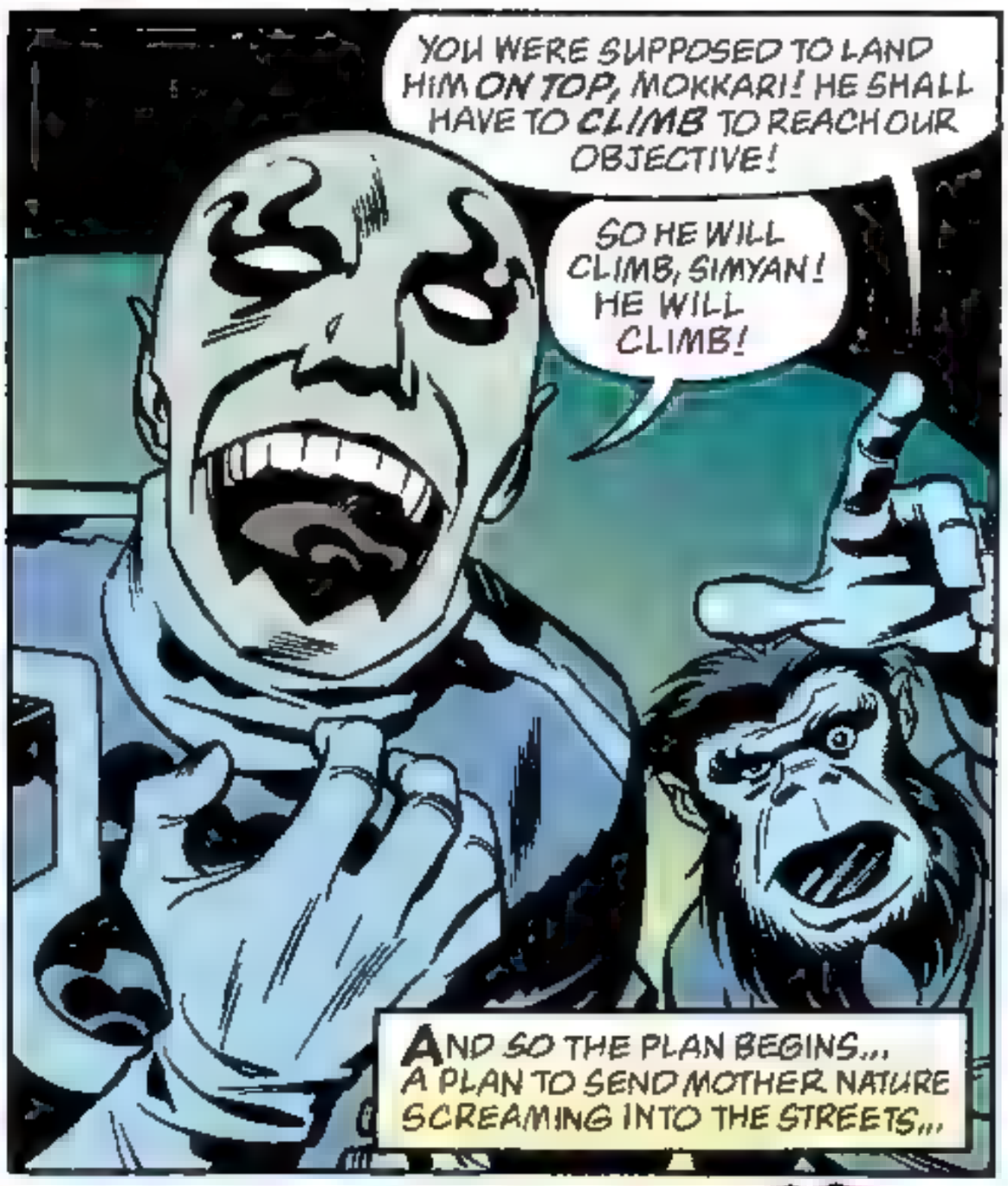
JUST OUT OF EARSHOT, A SCREAM GOES UP...THEN ANOTHER, AND ANOTHER, PUNCTUATING A MYSTERIOUS *APPEARANCE*...

TH-THAT THING WASN'T THERE A MINUTE AGO!

WELL, IT'S THERE *NOW!*

IT'S *BIG*--AND GETTING *BIGGER* BY THE *MOMENT!*

MILES AWAY, TWO BEINGS -- NOT QUITE MEN, NOT QUITE MONSTERS -- WATCH THEIR HANDIWORK ...
MY AIM WAS TRUE! RIGHT OUTSIDE THE DAILY PLANET BUILDING!


YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO LAND HIM ON TOP, MOKKARI! HE SHALL HAVE TO CLIMB TO REACH OUR OBJECTIVE!
SO HE WILL CLIMB, SIMYAN! HE WILL CLIMB!
AND SO THE PLAN BEGINS... A PLAN TO SEND MOTHER NATURE SCREAMING INTO THE STREETS...

...A PLAN TO REVERSE...

THE AMERICAN EVOLUTION

BASED ON A PLOT AND CONCEPTS BY JACK KIRBY

MARK EVANIER
WRITER
STEVE RUDE
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LEE LOUGHRIDGE, COLORIST
FRANK BERRIOS, ASST. ED.
MIKE McAVENNIE
EDITOR
SUPERMAN CREATED BY
JERRY SIEGEL AND
JOE SHUSTER

SCREAMS OUTSIDE? SOMETHING GOING ON OUT THERE...

...WHICH MEANS I'M NOT DOING ANY GOOD IN HERE!

I CAN MAKE A LEFT TURN AT THE VENTILATOR SHAFT AND GET OUT THAT WAY--!

I DON'T EVEN NEED TO WEAR PANTS ON THIS JOB. NO ONE EVER LOOKS AT ME--!

THESE "SIGHTINGS" MIGHT MAKE IT WORTH DRIVING OUT THERE AND TAKING A LOOK INTO--

HEY! WATCH IT!

I'M SORRY, MR OLSEN! PLEASE DON'T REPORT THIS TO MY BOSS!

REPORT WHAT? THAT YOU BUMPED INTO ME?

OH, THANK YOU! THANK YOU, MR. OLSEN!

CALM DOWN, BERNIE. IT'S NOT LIKE THEY'D FIRE YOU FOR BUMPING INTO ONE GUY IN THE LOBBY!

YOU NEVER KNOW! ONE COMPLAINT AND MY SUPERVISOR STARTS NOTICING THINGS... FINDING MISTAKES...

...PRETTY SOON I'M OUT-- NO JOB, NO PENSION, NO WAY TO PAY THE RENT...

WAIT. YOU HEAR SOMEONE YELLING?

DON'T KNOW WHO OR WHAT THIS IS--

--BUT IT'S DIRECTING ALL ITS POWER AT THE DAILY PLANET BUILDING!

KRAAASH!

EEEEEEE!

HIT THE DECK!

SORRY, FELLA! THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THAT LOBBY, AND I CAN'T LET YOU--

WHAK!

WHOA!

THAT MONSTER JUST SENT SUPERMAN FLYIN'!

NOW IT'S CLIMBIN' UP THE SIDE OF THE BUILDING!

BUT WHY?

BERNIE! GIVE ME A HAND HERE!

I--I CAN'T LEAVE MY POST!

YOU HAVE TO! THESE PEOPLE NEED HELP!

SEND FOR THE PARAMEDICS! THAT'S THEIR JOB!

HAVEN'T YOU EVER SEEN THOSE STORIES IN THE PAPERS? ABOUT PEOPLE GETTING SUED FOR MOVING AN ACCIDENT VICTIM?

THEY COULD DIE IF WE WAIT!

THAT'S NOT MY PROBLEM!

YOU'RE MY WITNESS, MR OLSEN! THIS WASN'T MY FAULT! I WAS DOING MY JOB!

I'VE SEEN SOME PRETTY WEIRD CREATURES IN MY LIFETIME -- MONSTERS ,,, ALIENS ,,, BIZARROS ,,,

,,, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING QUITE *THIS* LACKING IN HUMANITY ,,,

CAN'T WORRY ABOUT *HIM* NOW! THE WHOLE *CEILING* MAY COME DOWN ON THESE FOLKS!

DON'T *PANIC*, LADY! WE'LL GET YOU OUTTA HERE--!

WE'RE CLOSING OFF THE AREA FOR BLOCKS AROUND!

DOWN TOWN

TAXI

POLICE

MET.

POLICE

SHOULD I CALL FOR THE *SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT*, SUPERMAN?

TO DO WHAT? GET *STEPPED ON*?

GET EVERYONE BACK, AND GET *YOURSELVES* BACK WHILE YOU'RE AT IT--!

THAT THING -- IT'S HEADING FOR THE *PLANET GLOBE*!

IT'S NOT GOING TO WORK, MOKKARI! THE CREATURE IS NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO DEFEAT SUPERMAN!

OF *COURSE* IT IS, SIMYAN ,,, AND *I* OUGHT TO KNOW! *I* GREW IT!

I THOUGHT I LEFT ORDERS *NOT* TO BE INTERRUPTED, MS. CONWAY!

CBS

YOU *DID*, MR. EDGE, BUT THERE'S A *MONSTER* ON THE DAILY PLANET BUILDING!

I DON'T RECALL SAYING, "DON'T INTERRUPT ME *UNLESS* THERE'S A MONSTER ON THE DAILY PLANET BUILDING."

>SIGH<--ALL RIGHT, CALL GLENN IN OUR *TECH DIVISION*. TELL HIM HE'S COMING WITH ME.

YES, MR. EDGE.

WHILE AT THE DAILY PLANET...

THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE IN THERE WHO NEED *MEDICAL ATTENTION!*

NO ONE'S HURT *TOO* BADLY!

METROPOLIS

HOPE WE'LL BE ABLE TO SAY THE SAME THING ABOUT *SUPERMAN!*

SUPERMAN'S *HERE?* WHY ISN'T HE *HELPING* US?

POLICE

LOOK *UP*-- HE'S GOT HIS HANDS FULL!

BOY, HE *SURE DOES!* THAT CREATURE...

...WONDER IF IT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE ONES SIGHTED OUT IN THE WETLANDS!

BEATS ME.

IT JUST SEEMS TO WANT TO GET TO THE ROOF AND CAUSE DESTRUCTION--

--LIKE THIS!

KRAK!

RRR RRR

I THINK IT'S TIME WE END THIS--!

HUH? A RAY... OUT OF NOWHERE!

THE MONSTER'S GONE THE SAME WAY IT ARRIVED... WITHOUT EXPLANATION.

AND YET, THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT THE RAY THAT DISINTEGRATED IT...

...SOMETHING CHILLINGLY FAMILIAR...

WE DID NOT CAUSE HIM TO VANISH--DID WE?

NOT US, BUT I'M AFRAID I KNOW WHO DID.

IF YOU ARE AFRAID, THEN YOU DO KNOW...

W-WE BRED THE BEAST AS YOU ORDERED, SIRE! I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY YOU ELIMINATED...

NOT THAT I NEED TO EXPLAIN MY ACTIONS--TO YOU OR ANYONE--BUT THE ANSWER SHOULD BE OBVIOUS.

IT HAD SERVED ITS PURPOSE AND ACCOMPLISHED ITS OBJECTIVE. THAT IS HOW I OPERATE. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

Y-YES, GREAT DARKSEID!

WE UNDERSTAND YOU PERFECTLY, SIRE!

I PRESUME YOU ARE ON SCHEDULE WITH THE BIRTHING PROCESS OF MY EVOLUTIONARY WARRIORS.

WE APPEAR TO BE, GREAT DARKSEID.

OF COURSE, YOU KNOW, THINGS CAN HAPPEN...

THE PROCEDURE IS A COMPLICATED ONE. THERE ARE SO MANY CONTINGENCIES...

WE WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO MINIMIZE THE RISK OF FAILURE...

CLANG

BOOK

IT WILL BE DONE...

...AND IT WILL BE DONE ON TIME.

BOOM

I HAD A FEELING WE WERE GOING TO HAVE TO FIX THE GLOBE AGAIN... *WHICH* WE CAN'T AFFORD.

DOESN'T THE PLANET HAVE *INSURANCE*, CHIEF?

NO, THEY *CANCELLED* OUR POLICY THE *LAST* TIME IT WAS WRECKED.

DON'T WORRY, WHITE. *GALAXY BROADCASTING* WILL PAY FOR REPAIRING IT.

EXIT

I *NEED* AN IN-TOWN TRANSMISSION BASE, AND THIS BUILDING IS PERFECTLY SITUATED. WE'LL JUST PUT IT INSIDE YOUR SILLY GLOBE.

WHAT?! NO CHANCE, EDGE. NO DEAL.

THE DEAL'S ALREADY SET. I PHONED FRANKLIN STERN ON THE WAY OVER HERE. HE'S *DELIGHTED* TO LET GALAXY FOOT THE BILL.

PUT IN YOUR DAMN TRANS-MITTER, EDGE! THE CITY'S IN SHORT SUPPLY OF INFOMERCIALS!

I'D LIKE EVERYONE TO KNOW THAT THERE SEEM TO BE *NO* SERIOUS INJURIES IN THE LOBBY AND THAT IT IS NOT *MY* AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY...

SHUT UP, BERNIE.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS A *HUMAN BEING*? SOMEONE COULD'VE *DIED* BECAUSE OF YOUR COWARDICE!

IT'S *NOT* COWARDICE. IT'S JUST... BEING *CAREFUL* ...WATCHING OUT FOR *NUMERO UNO*...

WOW. GLAD I WASN'T UP *HERE*...

BERNIE, IF I EVER NEED A SPINE TRANSPLANT, I'M GOING TO ASK FOR YOURS.

IT'S NEVER BEEN USED!

TEN DAYS?! MR. EDGE, I CAN'T INSTALL A STATE-OF-THE-ART BROADCASTING CENTER IN TEN DAYS!

THEN I'LL FIRE YOU AND MAKE SURE NO ONE AT ANY COMPANY EVER HIRES YOU AGAIN.

EXIT

W-WE'LL GET IT DONE, MR. EDGE, I SWEAR!

I'M IN SO MUCH TROUBLE--!

YOU SEE? YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU STICK YOUR NECK OUT?

SOMEONE CHOPS IT OFF! LIKE THAT!

THEY'LL NEVER CATCH ME DOING ANYTHING WRONG! THEY'LL NEVER CATCH ME DOING ANYTHING!

LIKE I SAID: YOU'RE A COWARD.

COWARDICE: A CONDITION THAT HAS LIMITED MAN'S POSSIBILITIES FOR ALL RECORDED HISTORY...

...A CONDITION NOT LIMITED TO HUMAN BEINGS...

WE HAVE TO BEGIN THE BIRTHING PROCESS ON SCHEDULE! IF WE DON'T, DARKSEID WILL--

WE BOTH KNOW WHAT HE'LL DO...

...BUT STOP WORRYING--EVERYTHING IS ON-SCHEDULE.

I'VE LEARNED ENOUGH ABOUT THEIR PLANS...

TIME WE PUT AN END TO THIS INSIDIOUS OPERATION!

SMASH!

THE GUARDIAN!

WE'VE BEEN INFILTRATED!

YOU TWO THINK YOU'RE IMPROVING ON HUMANITY?!

YOU SHOULDN'T MEDDLE WITH SOMETHING YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT--!

HE'S SMASHING THE BIO-FEED! ALL THE LIFE JUICES ARE SPILLING OUT ALL OVER!

I'M RELEASING THE HYPER-HOUNDS TO STOP HIM!

I MISCALCULATED! SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THEY'D BE WELL-PREPARED...

...BUT THERE'S TOO MUCH AT STAKE TO LET THEM DEFEAT ME!

THEY CANNOT... THEY WILL NOT!

FORTUNATELY, I WAS TRAINED FOR SITUATIONS LIKE THIS!

MOKKARI, KILL HIM! KILL HIM BEFORE HE SPILLS ANY MORE OF THE JUICES!

BOP!

FORGET IT! YOU TWO ARE FIN-- =UNNGH!=

NOT TO WORRY, SIMYAN! THIS IMMOBILIZER WILL WORK IN AN INSTANT!

ZZZZZZZ

IS HE...?

NO. THERE IS STILL AN IOTA OF ENERGY LEFT WITHIN HIM.

WE MAY NEED HIM... FOR SPARE PARTS OR STUDY. I DRAINED ALL THE *LIFE* FROM HIM... ALL BUT THE *ABSOLUTE MINIMUM* HE NEEDS TO SUBSIST.

PUT HIM IN THE *LIVING CELL* FOR NOW! WE HAVE MORE *PRESSING* MATTERS TO TEND TO.

HE SPILLED SO MUCH OF THE *JUICE* WE HAVEN'T ENOUGH! IF WE ARE TO CREATE *MORE*...

"...SOMEONE MUST OBTAIN THE MATERIALS FOR US!"

GIVE ME ONE GOOD REASON WHY MY *INTER-GANG* GUYS SHOULD RISK OUR BUTTS TO GET YOU WHAT YOU NEED.

IF WE FAIL, MANNHEIM, WE WILL HAVE TO TELL *DARKSEID* IT WAS BECAUSE *YOU* REFUSED TO HELP US.

AND TO ASSURE NOTHING GOES AWRY, WE WILL BE SENDING YOU SOME... "*BACKUP.*"

IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, BRUNO "UGLY" MANNHEIM IS NOT THE ONLY ONE IN TOWN OPERATING OUT OF *FEAR*...

THE RENOVATION OF THE PLANET GLOBE IS DONE UNDER MUCH THE SAME ANXIETY...

EXIT

THIS EQUIPMENT... I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THESE BRANDS OR SOME OF THESE PARTS!

NEITHER HAVE I. BUT THEY GAVE ME THE SPECS AND WE HAVE TO FOLLOW THEM.

YOU *REALLY* THINK EDGE'LL BE MAD IF THIS AIN'T DONE ON TIME?

THEY SAY HE ONCE FIRED A WOMAN FOR SPILLING HIS CAPPUCCINO, *TWO DAYS* BEFORE HER RETIREMENT-- AND THAT WAS HIS *MOTHER*.

DOES THAT ANSWER YOUR QUESTION?

DAYS LATER...

THESE ARE ALL THE SIGHTINGS REPORTED OF *WEIRD CREATURES* OUT IN THE WETLANDS.

THANKS. I'M GONNA TAKE A SPIN OUT THERE AND LOOK AROUND... *IF* I CAN GET MY CAR TO START!

MONSTER INV
METROPO

SPEAKING OF "*WEIRD CREATURES*"...

...I DON'T GET HOW A PERSON CAN BE LIKE THAT... NOT CARING ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE...

FILES

SORRY, SIR. THAT'S NOT MY DEPARTMENT. MAYBE SOMEBODY ELSE COULD HELP YOU.

BUT I JUST NEED TO KNOW WHERE THE *MEN'S ROOM* IS!

SOME FOLKS SPEND SO MUCH TIME "*LOOKING OUT FOR NUMBER ONE*," THEY FORGET THERE ARE *OTHER* NUMBERS...

OLSEN! JUST GOT A PHONE TIP FROM ONE OF OUR STRINGERS!

ROBBERY IN PROGRESS AT SHERMAN CHEMICAL SUPPLY!

BE BACK WITH PHOTOS IN A FLASH, CHIEF! I *MAY EVEN* CATCH THE CROOKS!

I'LL SETTLE FOR ONE PICTURE!

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN OLSEN REMINDS ME OF MYSELF WHEN I FIRST BROKE IN. I WAS ENTHUSIASTIC... UNSTOPPABLE... IDEALISTIC...

GOD, I WAS SUCH A *SIMP.*

I DON'T GET IT! "UGLY" GIVES US ALL THESE SUPER-WEAPONS TO STEAL *WHAT--?* GOLD? DIAMONDS? NO... *CHEMICALS!*

SHUT UP! THE GUY'S PAYING US GOOD MONEY!

YEAH...

...BUT NOT ENOUGH TO FACE *HIM!*

INTERGANG THUGS! WHAT ARE THEY AFTER IN *THIS* PLACE?

AND WHAT KIND OF FUN TOYS DO THEY HAVE TO TRY TO STOP ME *THIS TIME--?*

THIS THING TOTALED A *BUICK* IN OUR PRACTICE SESSION...

JUST KEEP SUPERMAN *DISTRACTED* WHILE I RADIO THE TRUCK IN TO PICK UP THE CARGO!

BETTER TELL THEM TO HURRY--!

VLOOM

INTERGANG MAY ARM THESE CROOKS WITH THE MOST ADVANCED *WEAPONS,* BUT THEY DON'T TEACH THEM A LOT ABOUT *AIM.*

STILL, THAT THING COULD DO A LOT OF DAMAGE...

...SO I'D BETTER HEAD IT OFF!

THAT WON'T KEEP SUPERMAN AWAY FOR LONG!

THEN IT WOULD BE BEST FOR US TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.

THIS JUNKHEAP! I COULD HAVE WALKED THERE IN LESS TIME!

PUTT PUTT PUTT PUTT PUTT

HOPE THOSE CROOKS BOUGHT THEIR GETAWAY CAR FROM THE SAME GUY WHO SOLD ME THIS PIECE OF--

HEY!

MAN, THAT WAS *TOO CLOSE!*

WHY CAN'T THEY STAY ON *THEIR* SIDE OF THE ROAD--?

THEN AGAIN, THAT THING'S SO BIG, IT *NEEDED* BOTH SIDES!

GET YOURSELF TOGETHER, OLSEN! YOU'VE GOT A *ROBBERY* TO PHOTOGRAPH!

ONE THING I'LL GIVE INTERGANG: THEY MAKE *POWERFUL* MISSILE LAUNCHERS...

...BUT *NOT* POWERFUL ENOUGH!

BALOOM!

WE NOW RETURN TO OUR REGULARLY-SCHEDULED PROGRAM--!

HE'S COMING BACK!

I'LL SEE THAT MY NEXT SHOT ACTUALLY *HITS HIM!*

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!

PTOOM!

WE WERE TOLD THAT THESE WEAPONS WILL DESTROY EVEN SUPERMAN!

POOM

KTOOM!

PWING!

PWANG

PWANG

PWING!

ZWIP!

ZWIP!

ZWIP!

ZWIP!

ZWIP!

DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU'RE TOLD.

WITHIN MOMENTS...

THESE'LL LOOK GREAT ON PAGE ONE OF THE PLANET TOMORROW!

POLICE

THEY WERE TRYING TO STEAL TANKS OF FLUORO-CARBON DISTILLATION?

WE HAVE THE ONLY SUPPLY OF IT IN THIS STATE!

ARE YOU SURE NONE'S MISSING? AND WHAT'S IT FOR, ANYWAY?

POLICE

IT'S AN OXYGENATED LIQUID COMPOUND, USED MOSTLY IN CLONING RESEARCH.

CORRECT. AND I DON'T THINK ANY OF IT'S MISSING, BUT WE WON'T KNOW UNTIL WE DO A FULL INVENTORY.

SAY, ANY CHANCE THIS IS CONNECTED TO THOSE WEIRD CREATURES THAT HAVE BEEN TURNING UP?

I DON'T SEE HOW.

I DON'T, EITHER... BUT I'VE GOT A HUNCH HERE. AFTER I DROP OFF MY FILM, I'M GONNA TAKE A SPIN OUT TO THE WETLANDS AND LOOK AROUND

I KNOW I'M PROBABLY WASTING MY TIME, BUT IT'S MY TIME TO WASTE!

JIMMY'S HUNCHES HAVE SOMETIMES BEEN RIGHT IN THE PAST...

METRO POLICE

STILL, THIS ONE SOUNDS LIKE A LONG SHOT--!

LATER...

OH, GREAT! AN HOUR AWAY FROM TOWN, AND A DEAD ENGINE IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE--!

WISH SUPERMAN WOULD COME ALONG... OR AT LEAST MR. GOODWRENCH...

HEY, THIS PERSON WON'T IGNORE A FELLOW HUMAN BEING IN DISTRESS!

I'LL ASK HIM TO DROP ME OFF AT THAT GARAGE ABOUT SIX MILES BACK AND--

I HOPE YOUR TEETH FALL OUT THE DAY BEFORE THANKSGIVING!

WELL, SO MUCH FOR HELPING A FELLOW HUMAN BEING IN DISTRESS--!

LOOKS LIKE I'M WALKING.

FORTY-THREE MINUTES LATER...

THAT GUY IN THE JEEP MUST'VE BEEN A RELATIVE OF BERNIE THE DOORMAN...

I HATE PEOPLE WHO THINK THEY CAN AVOID GETTING INVOLVED IN THE HUMAN RACE...

THEY'RE ALWAYS SO SCARED...LIKE THAT LITTLE RABBIT THERE...

HUH--?

MAYBE NOT LIKE THAT "RABBIT" THERE--!

IT'S HEADING DEEPER INTO THE WOODS! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

RAWK

SKRT

UHH...I THINK I'VE FOUND THOSE "WEIRD CREATURES" PEOPLE REPORTED SEEING OUT HERE...

SOMETHING'S CAUSED ALL THE ANIMALS AROUND HERE TO MUTATE...

HSSSSSSH

...AND THIS *MUST* HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT MONSTER THAT WRECKED THE PLANET GLOBE!

YIKES! TALK ABOUT *UGLY!*

SOME SORT OF *MUTATIONS*... LIKE EVOLUTION'S GONE *POSTAL* ON US!

YOU CAN ALMOST SENSE THAT WHATEVER'S DOING THIS IS COMING FROM *THIS WAY*...

THERE'S A *SHACK* UP AHEAD! MAYBE THEY'LL HAVE A PHONE IN THERE--!

THAT TRUCK! THAT'S THE ONE THAT ALMOST RAN ME OFF THE ROAD EARLIER!

OKAY, SO WHAT'S IT DOING OUT *HERE*...IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE ...AT THE CENTER OF ALL THESE STRANGE TRANSFORMATIONS?

GUESS I HAVE *TWO* CHOICES:

STAND OUT HERE AND *SPECULATE*...

"...OR GO INSIDE AND *FIND OUT!*"

THE NEW-PERSON HAS BEEN DISPATCHED TO METROPOLIS!

DON'T BOTHER ME *NOW*, SIMYAN! I'M *RECONSTRUCTING* THE LIFE JUICE FORMULA!

I *STILL* THINK WE SHOULD KILL *HIM*.

FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, WE *DID*. HE IS JUST "*ALIVE*" ENOUGH TO BE USED AS A *TEST SUBJECT*.

JUST THIS SIDE OF DECEASED, HE HOVERS.

IN ANY HOSPITAL, THE GUARDIAN WOULD ALREADY BE DECLARED *CLINICALLY DEAD*.

STILL, HE CLINGS TO WHAT LITTLE LIFE REMAINS WITHIN HIM ...

GENETIC MEMORY:

THE GAUGES DETECT NO SIGN OF BRAIN ACTIVITY, BUT DEEP WITHIN HIM, THERE IS AN EYEBLINK OF AN IMAGE...

AN IMAGE OF A MAN NAMED **JIM HARPER**, WHO WANTED NOTHING MORE THAN TO BE A POLICEMAN

HARPER WALKED A BEAT KNOWN (RIGHTFULLY) AS **SUICIDE SLUM**, WHERE HE LEARNED THAT IDEALISM AND A BADGE WERE **NOT** ENOUGH

5¢

THAT REALIZATION HAD STOPPED MOST OTHER COPS. IT DIDN'T STOP HARPER..

IF I'M GOING TO PROTECT PEOPLE I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DO IT **MY** WAY..

JIM HARPER SOON BECAME THE LEGAL GUARDIAN OF FOUR **NEWSBOYS** WHO ASSISTED IN HIS EFFORTS.

THWICK!

WAK!

BONK!

AND WHILE SUICIDE SLUM NEVER **QUITE** BECAME "UPTOWN," LIFE WAS BETTER THERE FOR ALL, THANKS TO THE **NEWSBOY LEGION** AND THE **GUARDIAN**

THE GUARDIAN DISAPPEARED WHEN HARPER WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE **DETECTIVE DIVISION** IN ANOTHER PRECINCT

HE DID SUCH A GOOD JOB THAT INTERGANG PUT OUT A CONTRACT ON HIM..

THE CONTRACT AND ITS SUBJECT WERE SOON MARKED "**CANCELLED**"

THE *MAN* WAS GONE, BUT THE FOUR YOUNG MEN HE'D REARED WERE NOT READY TO LOSE HIM AND ALL HE HAD COME TO SYMBOLIZE.

THEY TOOK FROM HARPER A TISSUE SAMPLE, WHICH WAS TRANSPORTED TO "*THE PROJECT*," A HIGHLY ADVANCED EXPERIMENT IN *D.N.A. MANIPULATION*...

THERE, *DUBBILEX*-- HIMSELF A PRODUCT OF THE TECHNOLOGY-- SUPERVISED THE REBIRTH...

...THE CREATION OF A *NEW* GUARDIAN... IDENTICAL IN BOTH FORM AND SPIRIT.

NOW, IN THE PROJECT'S INSIDIOUS OPPOSITE NUMBER, BOTH FORM AND SPIRIT HAVE BEEN REDUCED TO JUST THIS SIDE OF EXTINCT...

NOW, THERE IS ALMOST NO GUARDIAN... AGAIN.

HELLO? ANYONE IN HERE?

SOMEONE'S BEEN THROUGH THIS DOOR RECENTLY. THEY BROKE THE LOCK CLEAN OFF...

...AND THEN THEY HEADED DOWN HERE TO WHO-KNOWS-WHERE...

...BUT I'M GONNA *FIND OUT!*

THIS TUNNEL SEEMS TO LEAD *UNDER* THE WETLANDS AREA...

MAYBE SOMETHING DOWN HERE HAS BEEN LEAKING *UPWARDS*, CREATING ALL THOSE CREATURES...

A QUARTER-MILE LATER...

SOMEBODY *REALLY* WANTS THEIR PRIVACY.

SOME KIND OF SUPER-DUPER LABORATORY! BUT FOR *WHAT?*

I REALLY SHOULD GO FOR HELP, BUT I'VE *GOTTA* SEE WHAT'S GOIN' ON IN HERE...

WOW!

--AND I DO MEAN *WOW!*

THEY'RE.. THEY'RE GROWING THOSE PEOPLE...!

THIS IS LIKE A BREEDING PLANT!

WHILE BACK IN METROPOLIS...

DAILY

AMAZING. THEY'RE DEDICATING THE RENOVATED **PLANET GLOBE.** THEY ACTUALLY GOT IT DONE ON SCHEDULE!

GUESS YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE FROM **KRYPTON** TO DO THE "IMPOSSIBLE"...

"...NOT IF YOU'RE **SCARED** ENOUGH OF **MORGAN EDGE.**"

AS I THROW THIS SWITCH, GALAXY INTENSIFIES ITS BROADCAST SIGNAL TO METROPOLIS AND SURROUNDING AREAS!

PHOTOGRAPH MY GOOD SIDE

IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE, BUT I **DID** IT!

I SHOULD LIST ALL THE PEOPLE WHO WORKED SO HARD TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN! AND IF I KNEW THEIR NAMES, I WOULD...

I'LL BET HE REWARDS ME WITH A PROMOTION OR A FAT BONUS... PROBABLY **BOTH!** HE'LL CERTAINLY--

OH, GLENN, BEFORE I FORGET: YOU'RE FIRED.

WHAT?!

MR. EDGE, YOU CAN'T **DO** THIS TO ME!

I BUSTED MY HUMP TO GET THIS DONE...!

YOU AND YOUR BUSTED HUMP HAVE FIVE MINUTES TO CLEAN OUT YOUR DESK.

SMITH HERE IS IN CHARGE OF **ALL** BROADCAST OPERATIONS NOW, RIGHT, SMITH?

WHATEVER YOU SAY, MR. EDGE.

THAT'S THE WAY I LIKE MY EMPLOYEES TO THINK.

PLEASE! YOU HAVE TO GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE--AT LEAST AN EXPLANATION!

:FLIK:

I'M THE BOSS. I DON'T "HAVE TO" DO ANYTHING I DON'T WANT TO.

NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I NEED TO PREPARE MY SPEECH FOR THE GUILD AWARD PROGRAM TONIGHT.

EXIT

THAT'S HOW IT ALWAYS HAPPENS! THE SQUEAKY WHEEL IS THE FIRST ONE THAT GETS REPLACED!

WELL, THAT'S NEVER GONNA HAPPEN TO ME...NEVER! LET 'EM CALL ME A COWARD... AN UNDERACHIEVER...

AT LEAST I'LL HAVE MY JOB.

A STUDY IN CONTRASTS: A MAN WHO NEVER TAKES CHANCES...

...AND ONE WHO CANNOT SEEM TO AVOID THEM.

THIS IS LIKE A BIG ASSEMBLY LINE... BIRTHING THOSE CREATURES WHO, IN TURN, BIRTH MORE...

...AND MORE AND MORE AND MORE...

MOKKARI! WE'VE HAD ANOTHER SECURITY BREACH! THE ALARM SENSES AN INTRUDER!

THE OCTOPOD WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT! THIS IS A VITAL MOMENT IN THE PROCEDURE!

I NEED TO CALL THE POLICE...OR SUPERMAN... OR SOMEONE!

WHATEVER THEY'RE PLANNING HERE, IT'S BIG AND IT'S UGLY!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

HUH?! OH, THANK GOODNESS -- YOU'RE HUMAN! FOR A SECOND THERE, I THOUGHT...THAT IS...

YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THEM, ARE YOU?

"THEM"?

YOU SHOULD NOT BE IN HERE.

I KNOW. BUT LOOK, I'M GONNA HAVE TO TRUST YOU! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT THEY'RE DOING IN THERE?

I MEAN, IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE BREEDING SOME KINDA MONSTER ARMY IN THERE!

YOU'VE GOTTA HELP ME GET A MESSAGE OUT!

THERE MUST BE A TELEPHONE HERE OR A RADIO OR...

...OR...UH...

GOOD LORD!

YOU ARE ONE OF...THEM!

IT IS HOPELESS! YOU CANNOT ESCAPE!

THAT'S WHAT THEY *ALWAYS* SAY! AND SO FAR, IT'S NEVER BEEN TRUE!

BUT THIS MAY BE A *FIRST!*

HYPER-HOUNDS-- DESTROY HIM!

DUNNO WHAT A "HYPER-HOUND" IS... BUT I'VE GOT A HUNCH I WON'T LIKE IT!

KLIK

RAWF

RAWRF

RUFF

=Gulp!= I WAS *RIGHT!*

FROM THE LOOKS OF THEM, THIS DOOR WON'T HOLD THEM LONG! I NEED A *MIRACLE--*

--AND I *MAY* HAVE JUST *FOUND ONE!*

GUARDIAN, I NEED YOU! *THE WORLD* NEEDS YOU! *CAN YOU HEAR ME?*

NOTHING, CAN HE *BE...?*

NO! HE CAN'T BE! THAT STUFF HE'S FLOATING IN MUST BE KEEPING HIM SEDATED!

AND IF I DON'T WAKE HIM UP FAST--

--THOSE DOGS OUTSIDE ARE GONNA HAVE MRS. OLSEN'S LITTLE BOY FOR DIN-DIN!

ROOOO

SKRATCH SKRATCH SKRATCH SKRATCH

MAYBE IF I BREAK THE GLASS...BUT WHAT CAN I USE TO--?

HEY, THERE'S A THOUGHT--!

UH-OH...THEY'RE GETTING THROUGH! AND IF THEY CAN RIP A STEEL-REINFORCED DOOR DOWN...

...I CAN IMAGINE WHAT THEY'LL DO TO ME!

KRASHH!!

HERE GOES!

I'M TOAST... OR KIBBLE... OR SOMETHING!

KLOSHH

DON'T WORRY... JIMMY! I HEARD YOU...

I ALWAYS HEAR... WHEN I'M NEEDED...

MOKKAR! THE GUARDIAN HAS BROKEN OUT OF THE TANK! YOU SAID WE DRAINED EVERY BIT OF LIFE FROM HIM!

HE SHOULD NOT EVEN BE ABLE TO MOVE!

GUARDIAN! MAN, AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU!

GET OUT OF HERE! I'LL HOLD THEM OFF WHILE YOU LOOK FOR AN ESCAPE ROUTE!

THE OTHER DOORS ARE SEALED! THERE'S NO OTHER WAY--

--WHA...?

THEY'RE UNLEASHING THEIR HORDES! THIS WHOLE PLACE WILL BE MOBILIZED IN NO TIME!

DUBBILEX?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

THE SAME THING AS YOU--TRYING TO STOP THE MOST DEMONIACAL PLAN EVER HATCHED AGAINST HUMANITY.

THE GUARDIAN AND I HAVE BEEN MONITORING THEM FOR WEEKS...

IT'S LIKE THEY'VE BIRTHED A THOUSAND OF THOSE CREATURES!

AND THAT THOUSAND WILL SOON REPLICATE TO TWO THOUSAND... AND THEN FOUR AND EIGHT. SIMYAN AND MOKKARI ARE WORKING, OF COURSE, FOR DARKSEID!

WITHIN WEEKS, THEIR OUTPUT WILL NUMBER INTO THE MILLIONS --ALL OF THEM MIGHTY AND MINDLESS SLAVES!

WHERE CAN THEY EVEN KEEP THEM ALL?

IN METROPOLIS. IT IS FROM THERE THAT DARKSEID WILL LAUNCH HIS CONQUEST OF THE WORLD.

WHAT'LL THEY DO TO THE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ALREADY IN METROPOLIS? KILL THEM?

DAILY PLANET

NO. WORSE.

"THE SAME ENERGY THEY USE TO ADVANCE THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS CAN BE *REVERSED.* IT CAN LITERALLY INVERT THE *EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS...*

"RIGHT NOW IN METROPOLIS, A REGRESSION DEVICE IS SENDING OUT THESE ENERGY WAVES, STARTING TO DEVOLVE HUMANS TO THEIR PRIMAL ANCESTRY...

"...TRANSFORMING THEM INTO *BEASTS OF BURDEN* FOR DARKSEID'S LEGIONS!"

WE'VE GOTTA GET TO THAT DEVICE AND *DESTROY IT!* I WISH I'D SOMEHOW CONTACTED SUPERMAN BEFORE I CAME IN HERE!

I DID.

WELL THEN, LET'S HOPE HE GETS HERE *SOON!*

KRASH!

THIS SOON ENOUGH FOR YOU?

IT'LL DO!

I TRUST YOU RECEIVED MY MESSAGE, SUPERMAN.

THAT I DID, DUBBILEX! NOW YOU AND JIMMY FIND YOUR WAY OUT OF HERE! WE'LL HOLD THEM OFF!

WORKS FOR ME!

THESE CREATURES HAVE GREAT POWER, BUT NO MINDS!

I BELIEVE I KNOW THE LOCATION OF THE DE-EVOLUTIONARY TRANS-MITTER IN METROPOLIS!

IF I SENSE CORRECTLY, WE HAVE LESS THAN TWENTY MINUTES TO REACH AND DISARM IT!

MY CAR'S GONE KABLOOEY ON ME--SO I HOPE YOU BROUGHT WHEELS!

WHAT I BROUGHT--

--WOULD QUALIFY AS A BIT MORE THAN "WHEELS."

IT SURE DOES!

THE WHIZ WAGON! THE NEWSBOY LEGION'S SUPER-SOUPED-UP VEHICLE!

I WAS WONDERING WHAT BECAME OF IT! YOU'VE BEEN CRUISING AROUND IN IT LATELY?

I WOULD SUGGEST WE GET IN AND DISCUSS MATTERS ON THE WAY...

"...THE SURVIVAL OF YOUR SPECIES IS, AFTER ALL, AT STAKE!"

INTERGANG SAYS TO GET OUT OF THE CITY NOW, EDGE! OUR 'COPTER'S WAITIN' ON YOUR BUILDING'S ROOF!

DARKSEID TAKES CARE OF HIS OWN...

GONNA DANDY UP FOR THE BIG GUILD AWARD PROGRAM, EH, MR. EDGE?

I MUST FORGO THE PLEASURE, FRIENDS! CHOOSE ONE AMONG YOU TO STAND IN FOR ME TONIGHT!

IT'S YOU, THE "LITTLE PEOPLE" WHO'VE HELPED MAKE GALAXY WHAT IT IS!

MOMENTS LATER...

TAKE OFF--FAST! CAN THIS HEAP GET AWAY IN TIME?

DON'T GET JUMPY, MR. EDGE -- WE'LL BE OUT OF RANGE IN SECONDS!

LOOK OUT! THAT THING COMING TOWARDS US! IT'S GONNA HIT US!

RELAX, MR. EDGE, I SEE IT.

AVOID THE HELICOPTER, JIMMY! WE CANNOT LET ANYTHING STOP US!

WHAT IS THAT THING?

IT DOESN'T MATTER. I'VE DISCHARGED MY OBLIGATIONS

JUST FLY ME FAR, FAR AWAY FROM HERE.

THE NEW TRANSMISSION CENTER IN THE DAILY PLANET GLOBE, HUH? IT'S ALMOST POETIC... TV BROADCASTS CAUSING THE POPULATION TO REGRESS!

WE'LL LAND ON THE ROOF!

HERE THEY COME, LIKE THEY SAID! BLAST 'EM OUTTA THE SKY!

I'VE GOT THEM IN MY SIGHT!

BA-

UM, MAYBE WE WON'T LAND ON THE ROOF!

THERE ARE PEOPLE ON THE STREET BELOW! STEER CLEAR OF THEM, JIMMY!

SPACESHIPS FLYING THROUGH THE AIR ...THE BUILDING SURROUNDED BY ARMED ASSASSINS...

GOOD TIME FOR ME TO INSPECT THE PENTHOUSE.

GANGWAY!

I'LL STAY OUT OF YOUR WAY! I SWEAR I WILL!

SO WHY DO WE HAVE TO KEEP THE KID WITH THE FRECKLES OUT OF THE BUILDING?

WHY DO WE DO ANYTHING? BECAUSE WE'RE PAID TO!

CRAASH!

C'MON, DUBBILEX! WE'VE GOTTA GET UPSTAIRS!

DUB--? HEY, YOU'RE HURT!

I WILL ...RECOVER. THE BLAST...CANNOT FULLY FOCUS MY MENTAL CAPABILITIES ...

FORGET ME. YOU HAVE LESS THAN *SIX MINUTES* TO DESTROY THAT DEVICE!

YOU MUST NOT LET ANYTHING STOP YOU!

FINE WITH ME...

...BUT *INTERGANG* MIGHT HAVE OTHER IDEAS!

WE HAVE ORDERS TO KEEP EVERYONE AWAY FROM THE ROOF, OLSEN!

UH-OH...

REFLEXES, DON'T FAIL ME NOW!

BLAM

I DON'T THINK THE RAY HAS STARTED REGRESSING PEOPLE TO NEANDERTHALS *YET*...

...BUT WITH *THESE* GUYS, IT'S HARD TO TELL!

SURE COULD USE SUPERMAN OR THE GUARDIAN HERE...

"...BUT I BET THEY'VE GOT THEIR HANDS FULL!"

THEY JUST KEEP *COMING* AND *COMING*!

THEY'RE BEING *BORN* FASTER THAN WE CAN *STOP* THEM...

...SO WE BETTER RESORT TO MORE *DRASTIC* MEASURES!

I SPOTTED *THIS* WHEN I WAS CASING THE PLACE EARLIER!

ZZ KK

THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE PROTECTING THEIR TECHNOLOGY WITH THIS *SELF-DESTRUCT* DEVICE!

30 SECONDS.

BUT...THESE CREATURES WILL ALL BE *KILLED!*

THEY'RE NOT EXACTLY LIVING *NOW*, ARE THEY? THEY'RE MINDLESS, SOULLESS *DRONES!*

20 SECONDS.

MOKKARI! THE PROJECT... ALL WE PLANNED...!

WE HAVE TO GET OUT! *WE HAVE NO CHOICE!*

ZEEP ZEEP ZEEP ZEEP ZEEP

DO NOT BE AFRAID, SIMYAN! WE WILL BE TELEPORTED CLEAR BEFORE IT EXPLODES!

THIS ISN'T THE EXPLOSION I'M AFRAID OF!

IT'S THE ONE THAT OCCURS WHEN WE REPORT *FAILURE!*

10 SECONDS.

WE BETTER GET YOU OUT OF HERE... *NOW!*

THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW MANY TIMES EVEN *YOU* CAN BE REBIRTHED, GUARDIAN!

KA-BLAAMM!!

THINK ANY OF THOSE BEINGS GOT OUT?

DOESN'T APPEAR THAT WAY. THEIR MAKERS DIDN'T SEEM TO TRUST THEM WITH ENOUGH SENSE TO SAVE THEMSELVES!

WE'D BETTER GO, JIMMY AND DUBBILEX MAY NEED HELP SHUTTING OFF THAT RAY--!

KNOWING INTERGANG...

"...WE CAN *COUNT* ON IT!"

THERE HE IS! *KILL HIM!*

THESE INTERGANG GOONS ARE SO EAGER TO FRY ME...

ZZAT!

...THAT THEY'RE SHOOTING *EACH OTHER!*

OF COURSE, IF I DON'T GET TO THE ROOF, WE'LL *ALL* BE BURIED NEXT TO THEM!

NO POINT IN EVACUATING THE BUILDING! IF THAT BOMB GOES, THE WHOLE CITY WILL BE--

UH-OH... ANOTHER INTERGANG GOON, HIDING BEHIND THAT DESK--!

BETTER JUMP HIM BEFORE HE CAN--

BERNIE?! BERNIE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN THERE?

OH, H-HELLO, MR. OLSEN... J-JUST MAKING MY ROUNDS...

LOOK, BERNIE, I'VE GOTTA GET UP TO THE GLOBE AND STOP A DEVICE THAT'S ABOUT TO GO OFF! GIVE ME A HAND!

S-*SORRY*, MR. OLSEN! THAT'S NOT *MY* DEPARTMENT!

DON'T YOU *UNDERSTAND?* THE FUTURE OF *METROPOLIS*--MAYBE THE *WHOLE WORLD*--IS AT STAKE!

HELP ME FOR THE SAKE OF *MANKIND!* JUST IN CASE YOU EVER DECIDE TO *JOIN IT!*

I KNOW YOU THINK I'M A *COWARD...*

NO, YOU'RE *NOT* A COWARD...

...YOU'RE JUST A *SELFISH PIG*... INCAPABLE OF THINKING ABOUT ANYONE BUT *YOURSELF!*

I'M JUST TRYING TO DO MY JOB!

I'D GET INVOLVED IF I COULD... BUT IT'S JUST NOT IN MY GENETIC MAKEUP.

BUT IF WHAT HE SAYS IS TRUE, I'D BETTER GET OUT OF THIS BUILDING... MAYBE OUT OF THIS CITY...

HOPE THEY DON'T DOCK MY SALARY IF I LEAVE, BUT--

=GASP!= SOME SORT OF MONSTER!

OLSEN... CAME THIS WAY...

BASH!

SORRY, FELLA! BUT IT'S EITHER ME OR YOU--

--AND THAT'S ALWAYS AN EASY CHOICE TO MAKE!

I'M WARNING YOU-- STAY DOWN! DON'T MAKE ME-- HUH?

HEY, DON'T SHOOT ME! I'M NOBODY!

I-I'M NOT ON THEIR SIDE! I'M NOT ON ANY-BODY'S SIDE! EVER!

DOESN'T MATTER. I GOT MY ORDERS!

IN THAT MOMENT, BERNIE SOBEL'S ENTIRE LIFE FLASHES BEFORE HIS EYES...

...AND HE IS SHOCKED TO DISCOVER THAT HE ISN'T IN IT.

AGGGHHH!

WHA--WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT KNOCKED HIM OUT?

I DID...

...WITH MY WANING MENTAL ENERGY...

YOU SAVED ME?! I'M SORRY I HIT YOU, BUT...Y'KNOW, YOU'RE NOT A HUMAN BEING, SO...

I...AM TRYING TO SAVE...YOUR PEOPLE... YOU ARE DOING... NOTHING...

WHICH OF US... DESERVES THE TERM HUMAN BEINNNNG?

BERNIE SOBEL SHOULD BE RUNNING. BERNIE SOBEL SHOULD BE GETTING AS FAR AWAY AS POSSIBLE...

BUT BERNIE SOBEL ISN'T RUNN.NG...

...EXCEPT, POSSIBLY, FROM HIMSELF.

CAN'T STOP... NOT WHEN I'M THIS CLOSE!

THERE CAN'T BE MORE THAN A MINUTE BEFORE THAT DE-EVOLUTIONARY THING GOES OFF!

HEY, FELLA! SHUT DOWN *EVERYTHING!* THERE'S SOME SORT OF *RAY* SET TO BROADCAST FROM HERE!

IT'S GONNA START TURNING EVERYONE IN METROPOLIS INTO A *MONSTER!*

HEY, DID YOU HEAR ME? *SHUT DOWN THE POWER!*

OH, DON'T TELL ME *YOU'RE* AN INTERGANG GOON, TOO!

NO WONDER UNEMPLOYMENT'S DOWN IN THIS COUNTRY! *EVERY-ONE'S* WORKING FOR INTERGANG!

MAYBE I CAN APPEAL TO THIS GUY'S *HUMANITY...*

UM, THEN *AGAIN...*

RIIIIIPPPPPPPP

I'VE COME TOO FAR TO LET YOU OR *ANYONE* STOP ME! TAKE *THIS--!*

OW! IT'S LIKE PUNCHING A *BRICK WALL!*

FAP!

HE'S TOO STRONG FOR ME--!

PUT THAT MAN DOWN!

THERE ARE MOMENTS IN LIFE WHEN ONE MUST ACCEPT DEFEAT... WHEN YOU KNOW NOBODY CAN HELP YOU...

...SO IT IS SURPRISING WHEN A *NOBODY* MAKES THE ATTEMPT.

D-DID YOU *HEAR ME?* PUH-PUT HIM DOWN OR I'LL SH-*SHOOT!* I SWEAR I WILL!

RRAWWRRR!

HE ... HE DIDN'T LISTEN TO ME!

NOW YOU KNOW HOW FRUSTRATING IT IS TO DEAL WITH MINDLESS BEINGS THAT JUST FOLLOW ORDERS!

WHERE'D YOU GET THE GUN?

IF IT'S *INTERGANG* ISSUE ...

IT WAS NEXT TO ONE OF THOSE GANGSTERS!

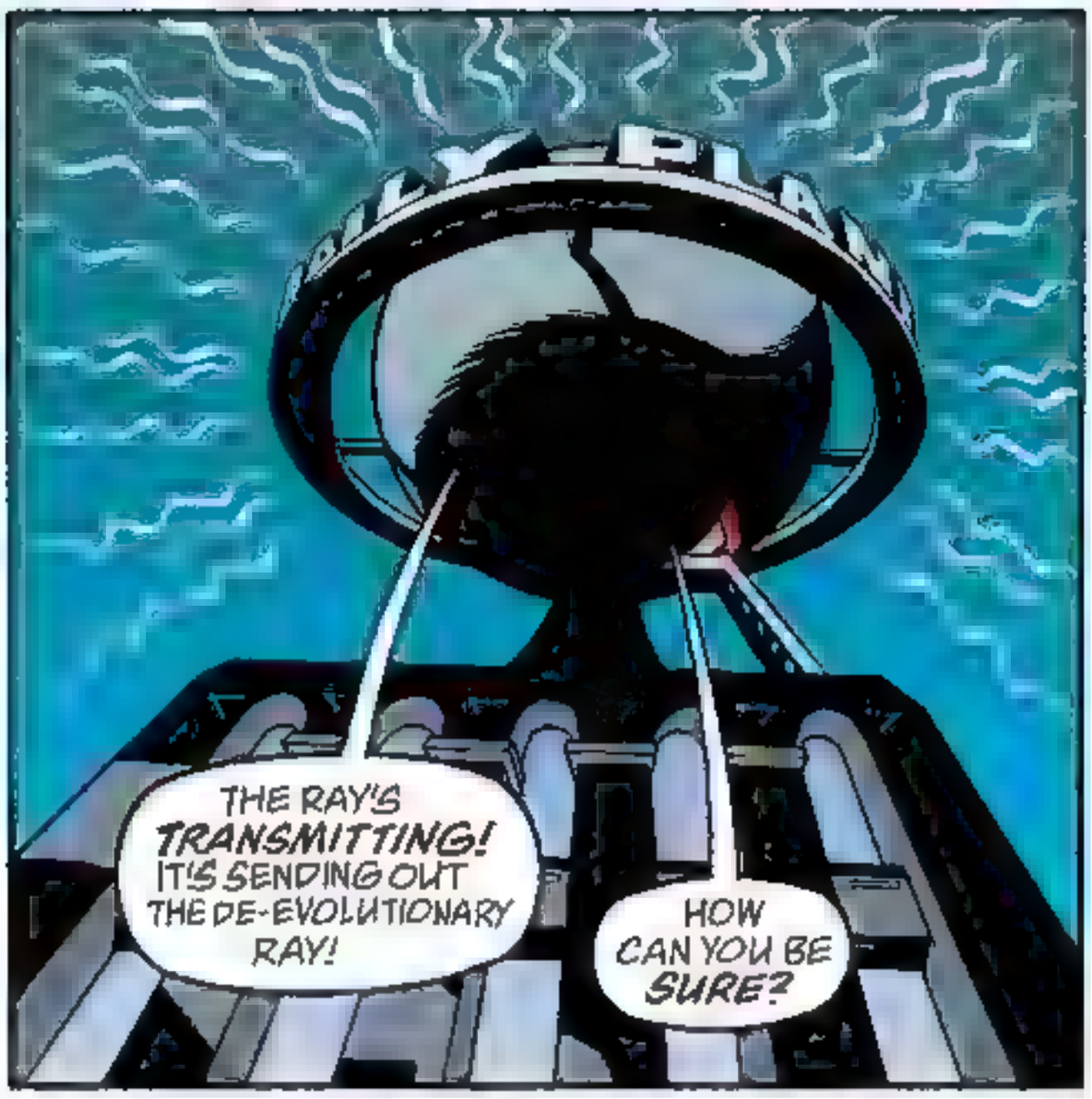
...IT OUGHTA BE STRONG ENOUGH TO TAKE CARE OF *THIS* GUY!

ZEOW

NOW, TO STOP THIS THING--!

BY THE WAY, BERNIE -- IN CASE YOU'VE NEVER HEARD THESE WORDS ... THANKS FOR HELPING ME!

WHAT'S THAT HUMMING NOISE--?


DALY-PLANET
THE RAY'S TRANSMITTING! IT'S SENDING OUT THE DE-EVOLUTIONARY RAY!
HOW CAN YOU BE SURE?

WELL, HERE'S A PRETTY GOOD PIECE OF EVIDENCE!
HOW ABOUT YOU, BERNIE? ANY EFFECT?

I-I'M TURNING INTO SOMETHING JUST LIKE THAT CREATURE!
HOW'S THAT FOR IRONY? JUST WHEN YOU STOP ACTING LIKE HIM, YOU START LOOKING LIKE HIM!

WE'VE GOTTA TURN IT OFF... BUT THERE ARE ONLY ABOUT EIGHT THOUSAND BUTTONS IN HERE!
JUST START PRESSING ANYTHING!
NO! TOUCH NOTHING!

THIS IS THE BUTTON THAT STOPS IT.
DUBBILEX! YOU CAN PROBABLY SENSE HOW HAPPY I AM TO SEE YOU!

AT THE MOMENT, I CANNOT SENSE MUCH OF ANY-THING...
EASY, DUB! DID ONE OF THOSE MONSTERS HIT YOU?
UH, SORT OF...

THE TRANSMISSION HAS CEASED. IT DID NOT LAST LONG ENOUGH TO AFFECT THE PEOPLE OF METROPOLIS.

ITS RUDIMENTARY EFFECT WILL WEAR OFF IN MOMENTS. THE CRISIS HAS PASSED.

THE BEST POSSIBLE NEWS FOR HUMANITY...

...AND THE *WORST* FOR ITS CATEGORICAL OPPOSITE...

THE TRANSMITTER HAS *STOPPED!* THEY'VE MANAGED TO *DISABLE* IT!

WE HAVE FAILED *DARKSEID!* AND YOU KNOW WHAT HE DOES TO THOSE WHO *FAIL* HIM!

DARKSEID WILL *NOT* ERADICATE US.

WE ARE TOO VALUABLE. WE HAVE TOO MUCH KNOWLEDGE. DARKSEID IS *DEMANDING*, BUT HE IS ALSO *PRACTICAL!*

I HOPE.

KLIK KLIK KLIK

ANOTHER SETBACK.

I HAVE BEEN FAR TOO *TOLERANT* OF SIMYAN AND MOKKARI...

TIME AND AGAIN, THEY FALL SHORT OF EXPECTATIONS... TIME AND AGAIN, THEY LET ME DOWN...

...WHICH MEANS THERE ARE *TWO THINGS* I MUST DO:

FIRST, I ELIMINATE THE *REMNANTS* OF THIS FAILURE...

...THEN, I WILL DEAL WITH THE *CAUSE.*

KLIK

WHAT'S THAT RUMBLING?

THE PLANET GLOBE-- IT MUST BE SET TO EXPLODE!

COME ON! I'LL GET US ALL OFF THE ROOF!

DAILY PLANET

I'M JUST AMAZED THAT YOU'RE WAITING FOR US, BERNIE!

NOT THAT IT'LL HELP! THE BLAST'LL LIKELY LEVEL THE BUILDING!

SOUNDS LIKE YOU FOLKS COULD USE SOME HELP!

ALL WE CAN GET, SUPERMAN!

WE SHUT OFF THE RAY, BUT THE GLOBE'S ABOUT TO GO BLAMMO--!

LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE'S OUT TO DESTROY THE EVIDENCE OF THEIR FAILURE...

YEAH, WELL--

--WE'RE GOING WITH IT IF YOU DON'T DO SOMETHING! CAN YOU DISARM IT?

THAT WILL TAKE TIME WE DON'T HAVE...

MUCH EASIER TO JUST GET RID OF THE WHOLE THING--!

PLAN

DAISY PLANET

LET'S BE THANKFUL THAT'S THE *ONLY* WORLD THAT GOT DESTROYED TODAY.

AGREED.

THIS HAS BEEN AN AMAZING DAY. DOES ANYONE KNOW WHAT IT ALL REALLY MEANS?

YES. IT PROBABLY MEANS WE'RE *NEVER* GOING TO GET INSURANCE NOW!

MEANWHILE, THE MOOD IS DIFFERENT ON APOKOLIPS...

THEY ARE *TERRIFIED*... AND WITH GOOD REASON.

I KNOW PRECISELY WHAT I AM GOING TO DO, AND SIMYAN AND MOKKARI KNOW IT, AS WELL...

...THEY JUST DON'T KNOW *WHEN*.

I'LL DROP YOU BOTH OFF AT "THE PROJECT."

THANKS FOR SAVING THE WORLD, GUYS!

THAT INCLUDES *YOU*, BERNIE. I GUESS I SHOULD TAKE BACK THAT "*SELFISH PIG*" CRACK.

DON'T.

WHATEVER I DID, I DID TO SAVE *MYSELF!*

NOTHING'S CHANGED. *YOU* WATCH OUT FOR *YOU*, AND I'LL WATCH OUT FOR *ME*...AND *ONLY* ME!

WHO NEEDS A *DE-EVOLUTION RAY* WHEN YOU HAVE FOLKS LIKE *HIM* AROUND?

BERNIE DOESN'T MEAN THAT AS MUCH AS HE *SAYS* HE DOES, OLSEN.

YEAH, CHIEF...

...BUT THEY SURE BEAT THE *ALTERNATIVE.*

SOMETIMES WHEN YOU CHANGE YOUR WAYS, THE HARDEST PART IS *ADMITTING* IT OUT LOUD.

DON'T FORGET--HUMAN BEINGS ARE FLAWED AND IMPERFECT.

THE END

EVANIER and RUDE

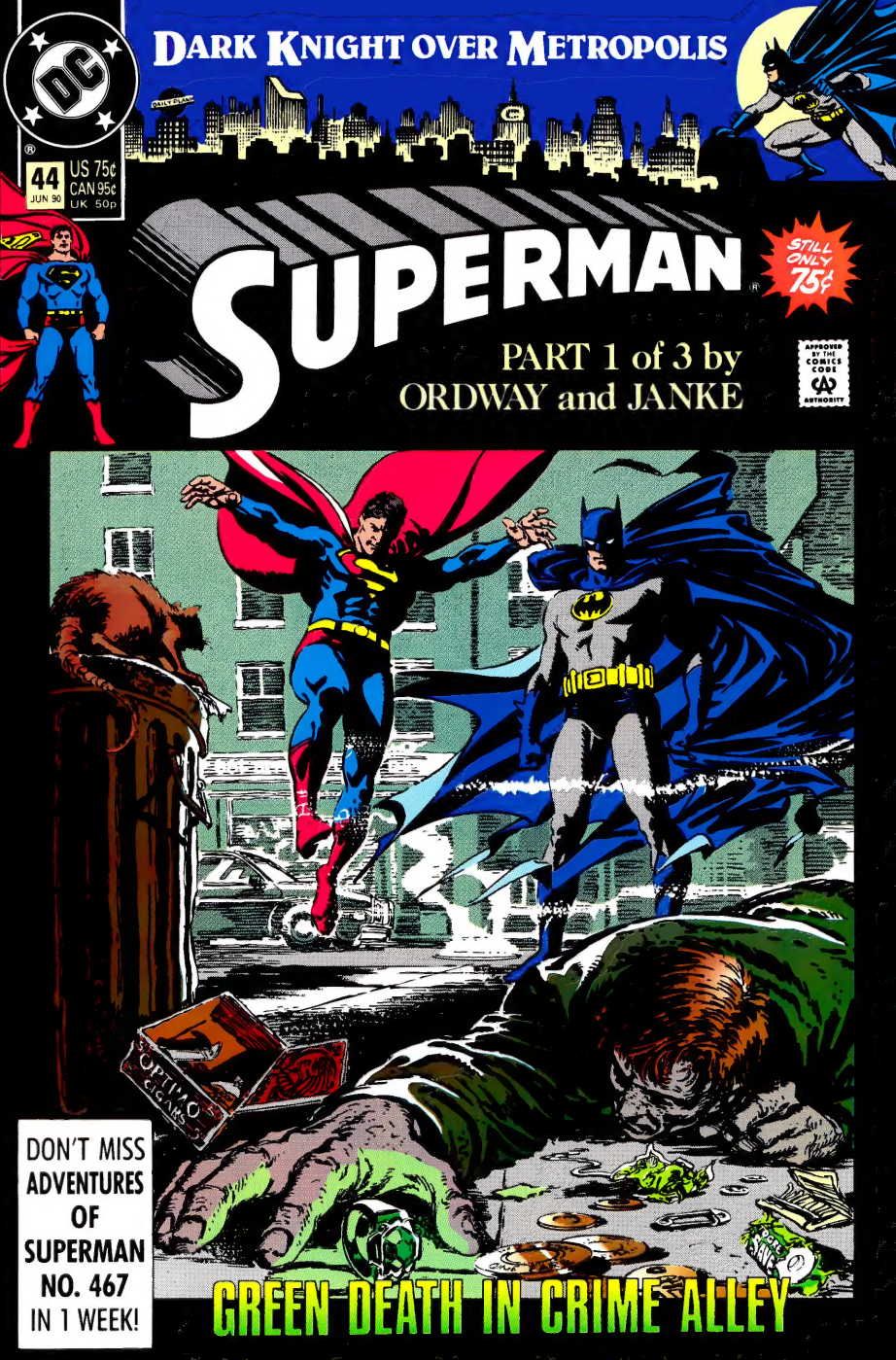
Superman Post-Crisis Chronology
Volume 036 Dark Knight Over Metropolis

"Green Death in Crime Alley", first appeared in Superman issue #44, released April, 1990
Jerry Ordway (writer), Jerry Ordway (penciller), Dennis Janke (inker)

"Taken to the Grave", first appeared in The Adventures of Superman issue #467, released April, 1990
Dan Jurgens (writer), Dan Jurgens (penciller), Art Thibert (inker)

"Deadly Covenant", first appeared in Action Comics issue #654, released April, 1990
Roger Stern (writer), Bob McLeod (penciller), Kerry Gammill (penciller), Brett Breeding (inker)

"The American Evolution", first appeared in Legends of the DC Universe issue #14, released January, 1999
Mark Evanier (writer), Steve Rude (penciller), Steve Rude (inker)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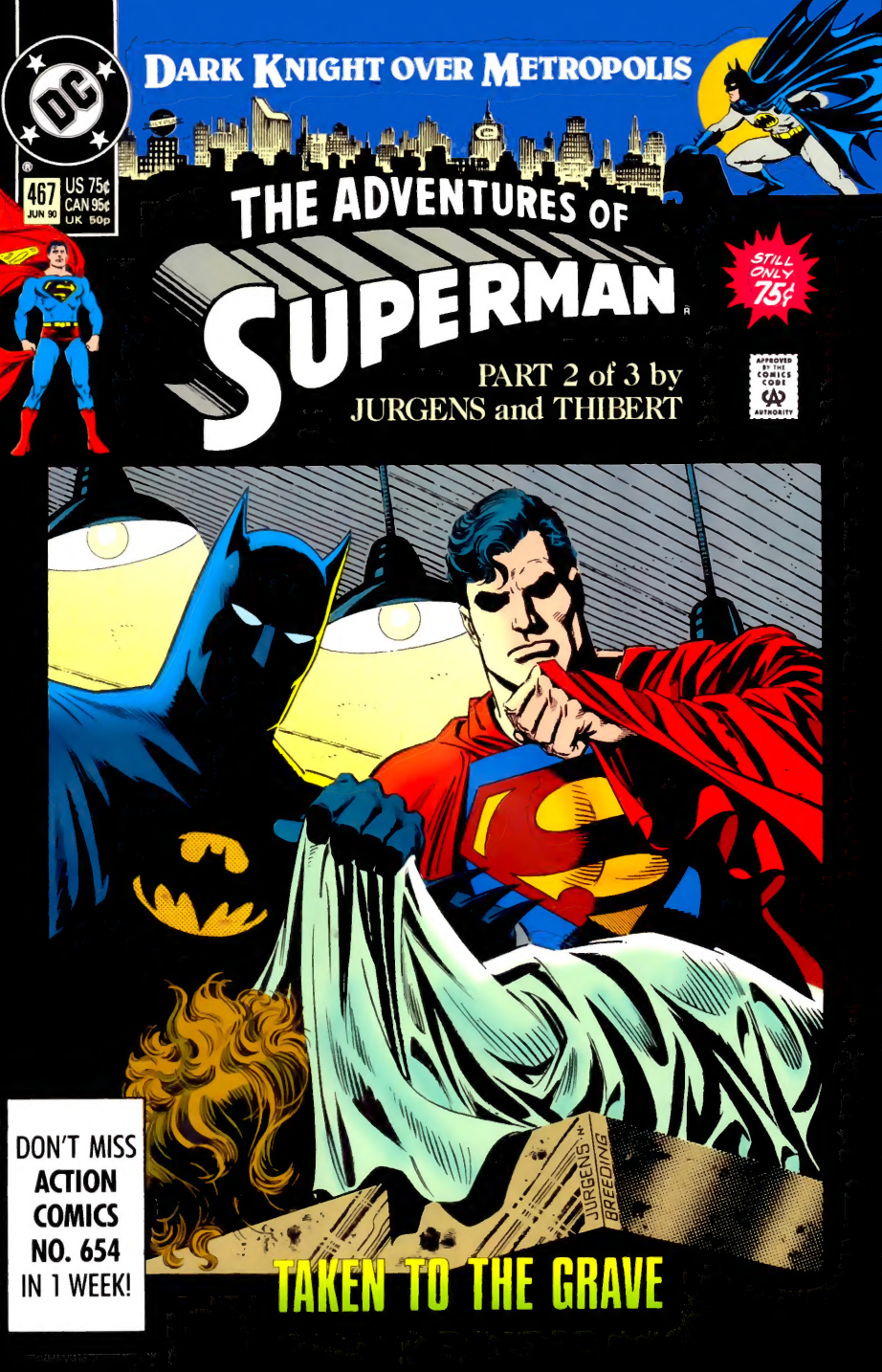
GREEN DEATH IN CRIME ALLEY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PART 2 of 3 by
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DARK KNIGHT OVER METROPOLIS

DAILY PLANET

ACTION COMICS

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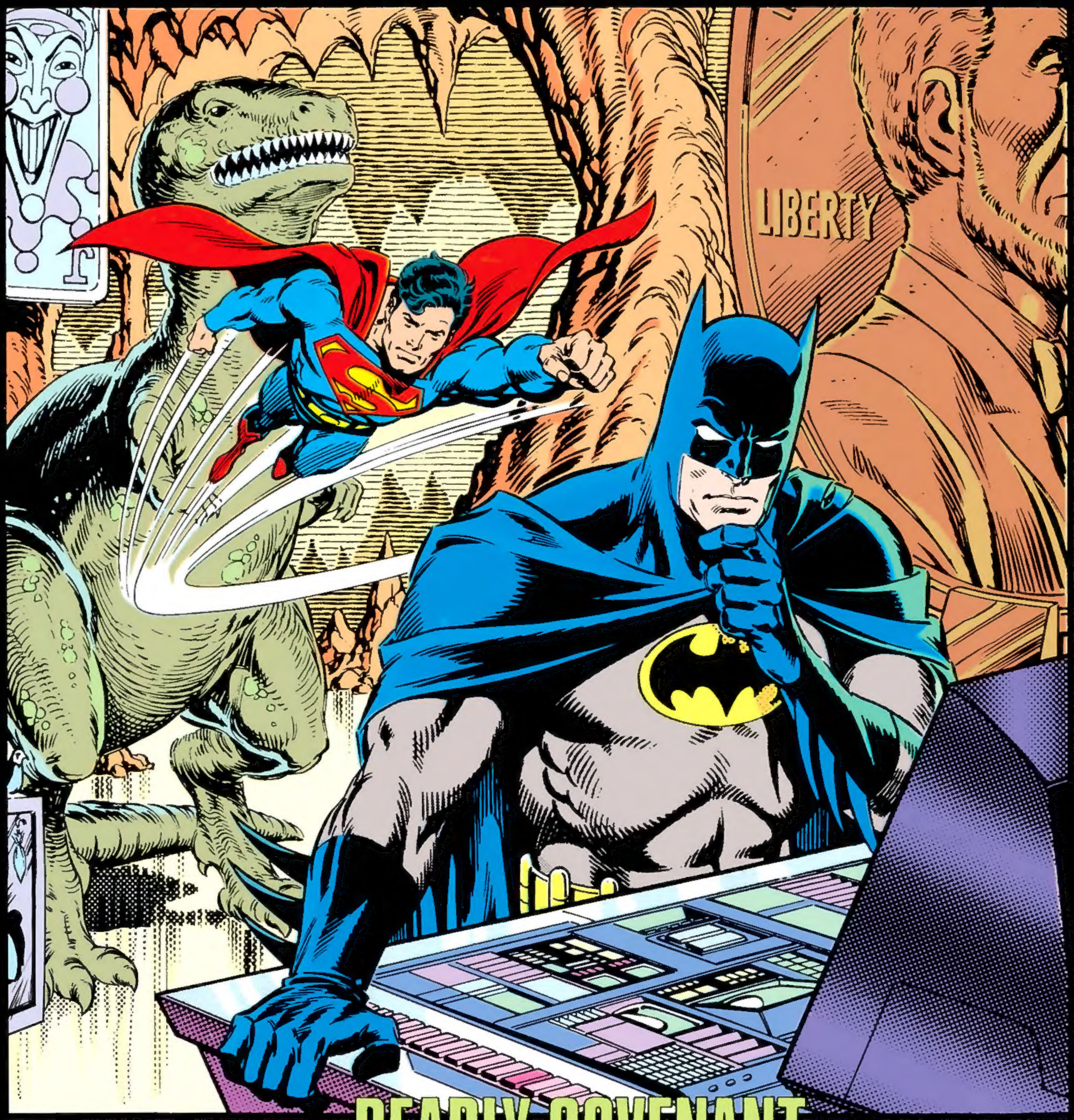
PART 3 of 3 by
STERN, McLEOD and BREEDING



Gammill/Breeding

DEADLY COVENANT

SUPERMAN'S® PAL, JIMMY OLSEN®

LEGENDS

OF THE DC UNIVERSE

NO. 14

MAR '99

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—THE AMERICAN EVOLUTION!—

BY EVANIER, RUDE & REINHOLD

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